



Prospect Hill, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 1LA
Tel: 01947 602406 | **Web:** www.ccwhitby.org | **Email:** post@ccwhitby.org

2 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Student Safety

The safeguarding of all our students is a top priority for us at Caedmon College and, as such, we are making some changes to the security of the school site. At the moment, we have a well-fenced perimeter, but an open gate at the top of the driveway which allows access to the site during the school day. This makes us vulnerable, both to strangers coming onto the site and to students leaving the site without authorisation. There is also a risk to students from delivery vehicles that can be driving around the school site at the same time as students are walking into school or transferring classrooms between their lessons.

The permanent solution to this issue is a set of automated gates to control both vehicle and pedestrian access to the site, with a system that allows communication with our reception desk and remote opening of the gates. This requires planning permission, which is currently being sought, and therefore these gates are unlikely to be in place for several months.

In the meantime, I believe that it is unacceptable to continue with an unsecured site and so the temporary solution will be to secure the existing gates (both pedestrian and vehicle), at the top of the drive, during school hours. Therefore, from Tuesday 6 July, we will either be manning the gates or, when our site staff are not available, locking these, in order to overcome the current safety risk. This will mean that, if you need to visit the site during school hours, you will either identify yourself to the member of staff at the gate to be permitted access or, if you arrive to find a locked gate, you will need to telephone the number for reception so that someone can let you in. Given the fact that we have some students who have tested positive for Covid, we wish to avoid any visits by external parties into school for the rest of this term, unless absolutely necessary.

I realise that this short-term solution is not ideal and it will result in some inconvenience, but I hope that you can understand that the safeguarding of our students has to take priority. I hope that by September we will have appointed an additional member of staff who will be able to man the gate until such time as we have an automated entry system in place.

Having had to send home a number of students in two year groups this week, as a result of them being identified as close contacts of a student with Covid, it has come to our attention that some of our students are meeting up in large groups outside of school, breaking the current Covid restrictions. This has meant that several students are now at home, self-isolating, rather than being in lessons in school. We would urge all our families to do everything possible to keep within the current guidelines, in order to minimise the number of students who end up as close contacts of someone with Covid and have to miss time in school as a result.

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind you that Caedmon College has a no nuts policy. This means that nuts, and products containing nuts, may not be brought onto the College site. The reason for this is that a severe nut allergy can be life-threatening for those suffering from this allergy and we have several children in school whom this affects. It is essential that these children do not come into contact with nuts or nut products. With this in mind, we kindly ask that all parents and carers please follow our 'no nuts in school rule' and be very vigilant regarding any pre-wrapped foods, shop bought cakes, cookies, etc, checking that the ingredients of these foods are nut free before your son or daughter brings them into College. If your son or daughter has a nut allergy, please can you also talk to him/her about not sharing snacks with, or accepting food from, others in school or elsewhere, in case of contamination from a different source.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Norden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Norden
Principal