

12 November 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

### **Safe Travel Advice**

There has been a recent incident in the Tonbridge area in which a stranger in a vehicle approached a student from a Tonbridge school at a bus stop while they were making their way home from school. With this in mind, and with the darker evenings, it is sensible to remind our students of some personal safety advice.

We ask that you discuss this with your children and ensure they understand how to travel safely.

When travelling to and from school, students are advised to:

- share travel plans with friends and family.
- spread valuables around their person (i.e. keep your phone secured in a bag, house keys and money in separate pockets).
- if possible, avoid travelling alone. Walk with a group of friends to and from bus stops and stations
- stick to well-lit and busy areas, particularly after dark and avoid shortcuts through isolated areas
- consider arranging pick-ups and drop offs with friends or parents if travelling alone or booking a licensed taxi for your journeys if travelling after dark.
- look and act as confidently as they can, walk with purpose, like they know where they are going.
- be alert to what is going on around them. For example, do not use their phone while walking and do not listen to music through headphones.

If approached by a stranger:

- do not go with them.
- walk in the opposite direction if they are in a car.
- keep to busy well-lit streets if possible.
- if they need help, head towards a busy area or go into a shop and tell someone. Use their phone to contact a parent, or if an emergency, phone 999.
- for their safety, avoid a confrontation as it could put them in greater danger.
- parents and carers should report the incident to the Police on 101 and let their parents or carers and the school know what has happened.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. K. MacSporran**  
Senior Assistant Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead