



KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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Headteacher Ms Gill Fox BA (Hons) MSc

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Dear parent/carers

We are still coming to terms with the tragedy in Manchester on Monday, and our hearts and thoughts go out to all those who have been affected.

Form time today was extended so that the issues raised by the incident could be explored by students with their tutors. It is really important for us to remind ourselves that incidents such as this and other hate crimes are carried out by a very small minority of people who are unrepresentative of our community. They are intended to intimidate and cause fear. At times like this it is even more important than ever for us all to work closely together and unite against violence and extremism. As we go into the half term it is important for us to get a healthy balance between being vigilant of the safety of ourselves and others, and also enjoying the activities in which we normally engage.

West Midlands Police have issued a press release, relevant aspects of which I think is important to share with you:

Here in the West Midlands, our focus is on providing an appropriate policing response over the coming days. We have a variety of tactics available to us on a 24/7 basis – we have teams of local neighbourhood officers, response officers, specialist firearms officers and traffic officers on duty around the clock. Looking forward to the weekend, Birmingham plays host to Pride which is a large lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender event and we're expecting tens of thousands of visitors to the city. This is an annual event with a parade, music and festivities which is enjoyed by many. I appreciate that people planning to attend may feel a sense of nervousness. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some reassurance that a full policing operation is in place and is subject to on-going reviews. We will have a large number of police officers, specials and police staff on hand to keep the public safe – this isn't only for the Pride event, but also for anyone visiting the city to enjoy all it has to offer. Everyone needs to be vigilant – be alert not alarmed. As ever, we ask the public to be our eyes and ears. If something doesn't feel right, call us. We act on every piece of information, no click or call will be ignored, we will only take action after appropriate checks have been carried out. If you or any young persons have any concerns, please contact WMP. There are many ways you can report – through local police on 101 or in an emergency 999 | the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 | Online you can click on the red button on the West Midlands Police website to report online terrorist and extremist material.

I hope you all have an enjoyable break and that those families who are supporting students doing their exams at the moment are also able to re-energise and relax.

Yours sincerely

Ms G. Fox - Headteacher

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