

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher Update:

Following an incident that took place in school at approximately 1:00pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January involving one of our students, I am now writing to confirm the essential facts about what happened, to dispel any rumours that may be circulating and to provide reassurance to anyone who is concerned.

First of all, I would like everyone to understand that the person most seriously affected by the incident was the child herself. You will understand that I am not able to go into the individual circumstances of the child and the challenges that she faces on a daily basis. Equally, I am unable to share the extremely personal sequence of traumatic events that this child has experienced over recent months, and specifically this week, which culminated in Thursday's behaviour. However, now that the weekend is over and we have made contact this morning to ensure the child is safe, it is appropriate that I do share with you what I am able to. I would like to thank you for your understanding with this matter and can assure you that we have acted at all times in a manner which safeguards the child, as well as all other children in our care. This is always our utmost priority.

I am conscious that there is a lot that I am unable to share with you in order to ensure the privacy of the child and for safeguarding purposes. However, I would like to clarify a few important points for anyone else who is worried about what happened and to ensure that rumours that may further damage the wellbeing of the child or any other child are prevented:

- At no time were any students or staff threatened verbally or physically.
- At no time did a student burst into a classroom holding a knife or making threats to others.
- At no time was a student or member of staff held hostage.
- At no time did any student or member of staff have to lock themselves in a toilet, or in any other location.
- At no time was the student by herself, without at least one member of the senior leadership team with her.
- We did close off a classroom and a corridor while we established the facts. I was with the child during that time.
- The student did have a Rolson multi-tool in her backpack but this did not leave her bag at any time and no threats were made to any student or member of staff. The multi-tool was handed over, in a calm and collected fashion, when no other students were present. There was no suggestion at any point that the child had any intention of harming any other student or adult with this.
- The child will no longer attend NSG and will receive the support she needs. The various necessary formalities are currently being completed.

We are devastated for a number of reasons that the incident on Thursday took place and we remain acutely concerned for the child's future well-being. Inevitably, it was a very upsetting situation for all concerned. We have already been in direct contact with parents and carers of the students directly involved and any other parent/carer that has contacted the school since this, including over the course of this weekend.

We have never needed to deal with an exceptional situation like this at NSG, and I sincerely hope we never face such challenges again. However, I believe this demonstrates that when the unexpected does occur, the whole school community rallies round and responds in full alignment with our inclusive ethos that we are so proud of.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff who helped me ensure the incident was managed swiftly, efficiently and above all safely. I hope you will understand that due to the many safeguarding aspects involved here, which we need to treat with utmost sensitivity, I cannot share any further details with you that would support you all to understand why this is such a desperately sad situation all round.

However, if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss this further, you are more than welcome to contact us. Please email the school on [admin@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nsg.northants.sch.uk) with the subject label of **'For the attention of the Senior Leadership Team'** and we will contact you as soon as we are able to.

Thank you again for your understanding, support and kindness.

With best wishes,



**Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher  
Northampton School for Girls**

