



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

e-mail: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

17th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sorry for the length of this letter but I write today with concerns about safety which I urge you to share with your children. I do not wish to alarm you but you need to be aware.

We received a report this morning of a male in a small white car approaching a teenage girl in the Bexleyheath area near the A2. The police are aware of the report. The girl was assisted by a member of the public and was unharmed. As I wrote in my letter of 13th May after being alerted of a similar report, students should travel together where possible and it may be worth adding that they might be advised to avoid being isolated by earphones and distracted by mobile phones.

I am also very concerned about some students' lack of awareness of road safety. I received an emotional email this morning from a parent of children at Danson Primary School who has for many years, like me, been concerned about some of the situations and near misses he has seen in the roads outside and near the two schools. He reported seeing a student step into the road without looking, narrowly missed by a car. He wrote: "As someone that has witnessed a child being run over, as a person that has a close friend that suffers nightmares and flashbacks because a child walked out in front of him, and finally, as a parent, please, please could you educate your students that they need to be careful crossing the road." Please help us with that education by sharing the contents of this letter with your child.

And then I was informed this afternoon that one of our student cyclists was involved in a collision with a car this morning and although safe, is in hospital and may require surgery. If your child cycles, please reinforce safety, including wearing a helmet, as I am sure you do periodically.

Switching to online safety, I share the concerns of my Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Gilmore, about social media use between our students, particularly students in the lower school. I draw attention to his safeguarding notice on page 11 of this week's [newsletter](#) and to our [online safety](#) page on our website. Mr Gilmore posts regular safeguarding updates in the newsletter - please look out for them.

And finally, an apology for not informing you of a change to information I sent out in April. I had said that there would be early finishes on 3 dates in June and July because of parents' evenings. We later changed our planning so that we could manage the evenings without the disruption of an early finish; I apologise for failing to inform you that there would no longer be early finishes. To confirm, school will finish at the

normal time for the year 7 and year 8 parents' evenings on 6th and 13th July - there are no early finishes planned now until the last day of term on 21st July - details to follow in due course.

Thank you for your time in reinforcing these messages to keep your children, our students, safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick