



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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Dear Parents and Carers

Subject: Urgent Safety Concern – Potential Gathering Near River

I am writing to inform you of a matter that raises significant concern regarding the safety of young people in our local community.

We have received information from a reliable adult source that a large group of local Year 11 students—reportedly numbering over 130—are part of a WhatsApp group arranging to meet this Friday near the river by the Odney Club in Cookham. It is believed that pupils from a number of local schools, including Newlands, may well be involved.

While we do not know which individual students are planning to attend, such a large, unsupervised gathering—particularly in close proximity to the river—presents clear and serious risks to safety and wellbeing.

We have shared this information with the Police, who have been notified so that they can make an informed decision regarding any necessary presence in the area. We are also working collaboratively with other local schools to ensure a consistent and proactive approach.

We strongly urge you to speak with your daughter about the potential dangers associated with attending such gatherings, particularly those involving large groups, lack of supervision, and proximity to water. We ask for your support in reinforcing safe decision-making and ensuring your daughter knows how to stay safe.

As always, the wellbeing and safety of our students is our top priority. We are right in the middle of the exams season and I urge everyone to focus on preparing for upcoming exams and think of the long summer ahead when those exams are over. The weather is set to be beautiful on Friday, adding to the allure of water and partying. Whilst I want all our Year 11s to take time for themselves during the break in addition to studying, it is my duty to also help them stay safe and make sensible choices. I urge all parents to have a conversation at home about this if you are able to.

Very best wishes

Miss Jo Capon
Headteacher

