

To All Parents and Carers



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Dear Parents and Carers

You may have seen in the News on the television or in the papers today, as it has been widely reported, that schools across London and some other parts of the country received a hoax email today. The email asks for \$5000, and if it is not received there will be an explosion. Like 400 other schools across London, Brunswick received it this morning. The quality of the writing indicates quite clearly that it is a hoax, and that **the children's safety has at no point been compromised.**

In accordance with our security procedures the Police and Local Authority were informed immediately. We followed their advice, which was to continue as normal and NOT to evacuate. The police are treating the emails as an attempt to extort money, **not** as a threat to safety.

The Metropolitan Police issued the advice below to Parents and Carers in February 2016 following a similar incident involving hoax telephone calls. You may find it helpful to read:

- *We assess every threat. Our highly experienced officers review intelligence and work with counter-terrorism experts, who have an in depth knowledge of such incidents, to quickly assess whether a threat is real or not. **We are satisfied that there is no credible threat posed to student safety.***
- *Making a hoax bomb threat is a serious crime punishable by up to seven years imprisonment. We are working with police forces across the country to find the person or people responsible.*
- *We are keeping schools and councils updated and have issued guidance on what to do in the event of a bomb threat. This guidance is in addition to existing safety plans held by schools which are well-rehearsed and are designed to manage a range of situations.*
- ***Schools remain some of the safest and most secure public spaces. Staff are highly trained and the wellbeing of students is their top priority.***

*We understand the anxiety and concern this may cause you as parents and carers, especially given the number of terrorist incidents that have taken place around the globe recently. It is important that we all remain alert but not alarmed and, to assist us in dealing with these incidents, we ask the following from you:*

- *If you have any specific questions regarding your school's safety plans or the site's security please speak to school staff.*
- *If your school makes a decision to temporarily suspend lessons while safety checks are carried out please do not attend the campus to remove your child unless you are asked to do so and do not phone the emergency services to ask for updates on your child – this delays genuine people in need from getting help. Schools will keep you informed and they will always arrange care for students who are unable to return home or whose parents/carers are unable to collect them.*
- *Please do not attend and remove your child from a school that has not been affected by an alert – this results in missed learning opportunities.*
- *Finally, please speak to your children about the consequences of sending hoax emails. What may appear to them as a 'joke' will have long-lasting implications for their futures.*

*Should you have any information about those responsible for the security alerts please call the police on 101 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.*

*You can find out more about how schools, the council and you can prepare for emergencies here:*

*<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/community-safety/emergencies/how-do-we-respond>*

Please be assured that the children's safety remains as always our first concern, and that this hoax email has not affected it in any way. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow, and every day thereafter, as normal.

Yours sincerely



Susannah Bellingham  
Head Teacher