



Friday 3 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You will have heard from our students that the Fire Alarm signalled a whole school evacuation on three occasions this Wednesday. They were found to be false alarms. This morning Tutors delivered this information to all students, which you may wish to talk about with them, at home:

- As you know the fire alarm was set off three times on Wednesday, each time by students
- Each time the alarm is set off the school has to contact the fire brigade. The fire brigade will be coming in to speak to all students
- False alarms unnecessarily disrupt learning, with some students taking exams and others in practical lessons, as happened on Wednesday
- Alarms and evacuations can induce anxiety and panic attacks, as happened on Wednesday
- There is a cost to reset the alarm and to replace the broken glass, money which should be spent on learning materials
- Any student who knows anything about the events on Wednesday should inform an adult in school. This can be done discreetly and confidentially, either in person or by email
- Thank you to those students who have already shared information.

Please reassure your daughter that we are working to identify the students involved. We appreciate that there are at most three culprits in the school community. The majority of our students consistently maintain the school's high expectations for behaviour.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that Mr Duffy is no longer working with us. We are most appreciative of his service and contribution to the success of the school and our students during the last seven and a half years. Should you have any queries that you would have ordinarily directed to Mr Duffy, please mark these for my attention so that I can redirect them accordingly.

Finally, I wanted to share a photograph of Amanda Sleight speaking to our students this week. Amanda is Commercial Director of Amazon Web Services in the UK. She had been invited as part of QEGSA's speaker programme, which compliments the school's speaker programme. Amanda spoke to students about her education and career path leading to her current leadership role. She also addressed issues around female representation in STEM fields of

work. Afterwards Amanda commented how impressed she was by our students' knowledge during Q&A throughout her talk. Equally, our students were impressed with Amanda's engaging talk which they found highly motivating. As always, the school is appreciative of the support it receives from our families, through QEGSA.



Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker

Violet Walker
Headteacher