SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Learning Partnership Perton Middle School Gainsborough Drive Perton Staffordshire VVV6 7NR 01902 758244 office@pms.sslp.uk

Dear Parent / Carer,

PERTON

SCHOOL

## Myths and Rumours

I have been made aware that there have been rumours circulating on social media about an incident that happened before half-term that are wildly wide of the mark and that need addressing.

These are the genuine rumours that have been shared with me.

There was an incident before half term where we had an intruder who was armed with a:

- knife
- machete
- gun
- rocket launcher

## The actual facts

There was a student playing truant from a secondary school in Tettenhall who tried to gain the attention of some of our students by calling to them through our fence.

The child was reported as missing from their school and a PCSO turned up to take him back to the school in Tettenhall. The whole thing was over in a short space of time.

There was no danger and no threat, no knife, no machete, no gun, and certainly no rocket launcher! Just a child who tried to get the attention of some of our children through the fence.

We did not need to report a child truanting from another school to our parents. Please be reassured that we have very robust procedures for safeguarding our children and for reporting any incidents of concern to parents and other schools. If a serious incident were ever to take place, we would inform parents. This occasion was not one of them.

On a similar note, one of our children found a vegetable knife that had been left in the netted seat back pocket on one of the buses we use provided by the LA. This has been reported to the LA as the bus had been used by a number of schools over the recent weeks. We are very grateful to the pupil who reported it for doing the right thing and the bus company are investigating.

More widely, we continue to enforce safety and wellbeing through our in-house reporting and investigation processes, through assemblies and PSHE lessons and through visiting speakers.

We will soon be launching our Synergy App for parents which will ensure that we maintain regular levels of contact about all aspects of school life. Details will follow very soon.

If you ever have any questions or queries, please do feel free to get in touch directly with school and we will be glad to answer them. Rumours may abound on social media, but we are your best source of information for school related issues and we are always happy to talk to you.

Yours faithfully Mrs M Burrington Headteacher