



DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

Academy Road, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9FZ

T: 01670 816 111 E: admin.dss@ncea.org.uk W: www.dukes.ncea.org.uk

PRINCIPAL: Mr S Gibson

7 February 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

Bike Security

A number of pupils travel to and from school by bike and leave their bike for the day in our shed adjacent to the main gate. Unfortunately, this shed has recently become the target for thieves.

It is essential that pupils who choose to travel to school by bike bring a lock sufficient to secure their bike during the day. Where a pupil forgets to bring a lock, we have purchased a small number of bike locks that can be borrowed for the day. If a pupil needs to borrow a lock, they should come to the pupil entrance and speak to a member of staff. However, we believe that boltcutters have been used to cut locks in other nearby thefts.

Although we lock the bike shed between 9.00am and around 3.00pm, it has become apparent that the thieves are climbing over the roof of the bike shed before jumping in and stealing bikes by throwing them out through gaps in the roof covering. We are taking advice from the police and considering ways in which we can improve the security of the bike shed.

Until we are able to complete this additional security work, we make the following temporary advice:

- To prevent further thefts, the bike shed will be out of use from Friday 8th February, and instead pupils should walk their bike to the main pupil entrance. Staff at the pupil entrance will direct the pupils to a place inside a building where we can temporarily store bikes.
- Bikes will not be admitted to the temporary storage space after 8.45am, when the first bell sounds. Similarly, bikes will not be available to collect before 3.20pm to leave. Therefore, if a pupil is going to be late to school, or needs to leave school early, at the current time travel by bike is not advisable.

The information in this letter is to provide parents/carers with an update of the situation and by giving you this information it will allow you to make decisions based on the risks in place. I will write to you again to update you on what additional measures we have been able to put in place as a longer term solution.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Gibson
Principal



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by
Guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6654339

