COLMERS SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Emma Leaman

August 7th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Community Safety

I am reaching out to contact you during the Summer break in light of the incredibly worrying events that have followed the recent tragedy in Southport.

Our thoughts go out to the Southport families affected by such a tragic and heartbreaking loss of young lives, and to their wider community. It is difficult to imagine the impact of such a terrible incident, which has only been made worse by the violence that has been ignited in the aftermath.

If we were in school at the moment, we would have the opportunity to talk with students and help them through these distressing events. While we are in the middle of the school holidays, I am writing to ask for your support to keep everyone in our community safe.

It is evident that social media has been used since the terrible events of July 29th to both spread misinformation and to co-ordinate demonstrations and protests. As you will have seen in the news, many events have escalated to include very serious levels of violence abuse. I know this will be having a direct impact on many members of our school community, especially those who are facing increased incidents of racist abuse and violence. As a school, we ask you all to stand together in our rejection of extremism, racism and Islamophobia. While we may have very different views about all sorts of issues affecting our country and our communities, we need to help our young people understand that we will unite to protect them **all** from harm.

In particular, I would ask you to reach out and look after neighbours, friends and wider community who are most affected by recent events. I also ask that you keep an extra eye on your child's social media and check for anything designed to draw them into extremist or violent activity - I am acutely aware that in the current climate, our young people could be targeted for recruitment into extremist groups. With protests and gatherings being organised on-line, it is important we are vigilant and do all we can to prevent our young people from getting caught up in the violent and abusive confrontations that are causing such damage in our communities.

If you have any concerns or need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact us at school, ideally through the enquiries@colmers.school email address.

I wish you and yours well for the remainder of the Summer break - please stay safe!

With very best wishes,

Emma Leaman

Ms E Leaman
Head Teacher