



23 July 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

Some of you may have seen that Dane Court was mentioned in the national press yesterday. We're usually delighted to receive local or national coverage, but yesterday's was less welcome. I am writing to reassure you, and to correct some wrong statements that were reported.

The newspaper reports said that the police have warned us about a possible stabbing of a student. This is not correct. The police have not warned us about a stabbing.

It is certainly true that there is a worry in the community in Thanet about gangs. This was the point of the telephone conversation I had with a journalist, over three weeks ago, and this has been the case for over a year now. Some people are concerned that Thanet is only a few years behind London.

In common with every other secondary school in Thanet, we are saying that we are concerned about our students, but this is not about grammar schools in particular, and there has been no specific threat.

A year ago, we were one of the first schools in Thanet to let parents know about our concerns about children's safety. We invited all parents into school for a (very well attended) meeting with community and youth leaders in July 2017. I'm glad to say that, in the last twelve months, there have been some very positive developments. These have brought together the various secondary schools, the police and other organisations and have led to more initiatives to keep all our children safe.

You may know that at Dane Court we've talked frequently to our students about keeping safe, and we've made sure that staff are always visible and out on duty, so that students can talk to them if they have any concerns. I repeat that there has been no direct threat.

We are certainly concerned for the safety of children in the community in Thanet, and about the spread of gangs in the area. This is the message we need to get across to everyone, and we all need to work together.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Fowler  
Headteacher