

Our Ref: MAL/SCN/SKY
November 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very happy for our students to travel to and from the Academy on their bicycles, and I recently wrote to the parents and carers of the students that we have identified as regular bicycle users, but I do wish to share with my concerns with all parents and carers, and encourage you to discuss my safety concerns with your children.

Whilst many of our cyclists take their responsibility very seriously and we have e-mails from the public praising them for dismounting around busy areas. However, we have had several complaints regarding students riding their bikes dangerously, and without due care for pedestrians and other road users. This is particularly the case around our local primary schools where we are unable to supervise our students.

Of particular concern is that some students are showing off along busy roads by doing 'wheelies'. Whilst this is great fun for the rider, many drivers have contacted me to say how scared they are that our students are putting themselves at real risk of a serious accident.

All students must wear a helmet from **Monday 11th November 2019** when riding to and from the Academy, we have taken this decision following a recent accident involving one of our students who wasn't wearing a helmet.

After half term we are planning to host a representative from the Sandwell Road Safety team to lead an assembly/workshop on bike safety including lights, hi-vis clothing, and bike maintenance.

If we identify any student who is putting themselves and others at risk through careless and reckless cycling, then I will stop that student from cycling to the Academy until I am satisfied the student is prepared to take their responsibilities seriously.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads 'M Arnull'.

Mr M Arnull
Head of School

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH | Head of School: Mr Mark Arnull BA Hons, MA, NPQH

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Q3 - Quaerere | 'Seek that which is good, that which is right, that which is true'

