



St Augustine's Catholic College

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Headteacher Mr Aidan Dowle, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

Our ref: AFD/NJA
16th September 2026

Dear parents and guardians

Serious incident in Trowbridge – 15 September 2026

It is with real sadness that I am writing to you concerning a serious incident involving members of our school community which took place in Trowbridge after school yesterday.

A pupil from our school was repeatedly assaulted by a number of other pupils in what appears to have been a planned attack. The police are involved and the school is working closely with them as their enquiries continue. We are also conducting our own investigation and there will be significant consequences for those found to have been involved.

Understandably, this incident has left us shocked and deeply saddened. Our immediate priority has been the safety and wellbeing of the young person involved and ensuring that appropriate support is in place.

Of further concern is that a number of young people chose to film the incident and that this footage has subsequently been widely circulated. I made it very clear when addressing the whole school this morning that filming incidents of this nature, or sharing and circulating such footage, is completely unacceptable. Pupils who choose to do so should expect significant consequences for their actions. I would ask for your support in reinforcing this message at home and in ensuring that your child does not seek out, watch or share this footage, so that we protect the dignity of the young person involved.

What happened yesterday does not reflect the community we are seeking to build at St Augustine's. At the heart of our school is our belief in the dignity and worth of every individual. Each of us has a responsibility to look out for one another, particularly those who may be vulnerable, and to have the courage to speak up when we know that someone may be at risk. We should never stand by, encourage or participate when another person is being harmed or humiliated.

Incidents of this seriousness are thankfully rare, but moments such as this remind us of the importance of working together. I recognise that seeing or hearing about an incident such as this may also be upsetting for some young people and parents. Support is available in school for any pupil who is worried or distressed, and I would encourage them to speak to a trusted member of staff.

The overwhelming majority of our young people understand and live out the values of kindness, compassion and respect that underpin our school every single day. As pupils, parents and staff, we now need to draw together as one community and reinforce those values. By working together, speaking up when something is wrong and looking out for one another, we can ensure that St Augustine's remains a community in which every young person is treated with dignity and respect and feels safe, valued and protected.

Thank you for your continued support.

My best wishes

Aidan Dowle
Headteacher