



27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

I need to make you aware that there was an incident yesterday involving one of our students walking home from school using the footpath behind St Helen's Church on The Ridge. The student was assaulted by a man, described as being in his early twenties, about six feet tall, slim average build, short dark hair, wearing a blue hooded waterproof jacket with white stripes on the sides of the arms running vertically down the arms and dark coloured trousers and trainers. The student escaped unharmed but is obviously frightened and very shaken.

The Police have released a statement saying that the circumstances of this attack are similar to a previous incident in 2014 in that location, and therefore, they are increasing police presence in the area and want to assure parents, carers and local people that everything possible is being done to find this man.

They have also asked that if you were in the area of The Ridge between 3.45pm and 4.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January and saw this man or if you have any other information that may help, please contact them right away via 101 or email [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) quoting Operation Westward. You can also call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

We frequently advise students on both sites not to use this shortcut but recognise that this has been difficult recently due to roadworks closing the pavement along The Ridge at this point. The pavement is now open so please do ensure that your daughter uses the main road route, in spite of the additional journey time that this will take.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Monk  
Principal



PRINCIPAL: Lucy Monk