



# Heathcote School & Science College

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Dear Parent/Carer,



I would like to take this opportunity to update you on two potentially serious issues but I am aware that these issues relate to a small number of parents and pupils. I would however like you to be aware as a school community.



## Deodorant or aerosol cans

Recently a small number of pupils have taken to spraying smoke detectors with aerosol cans causing the fire alarm to go off and leading to a whole school evacuation and subsequent disruption to learning and teaching. Aerosols are banned items and we will be undertaking random searches of bags as well as targeting certain pupils to ensure that this highly dangerous practice is wiped out. Any such items will be confiscated and may mean your child is a suspect to any future incidents. I am taking an extremely firm stand on these incidents and pupils involved in setting a fire alarm off will most likely not be able to return to the school. I am not prepared to put the safety of your child at risk. If your child needs to bring deodorant into school, they must bring a roll on type.



## Phone calls from school

I am disappointed to discover that a small number of parents have set up a block on their phones so that if they receive a call from the school, it will go straight to answer machine. This is also a major safeguarding issue as we may need to talk to you urgently about your child for example in a medical situation. In addition, it means we are unable to work in partnership with you to support your child. I have never ever experienced this happening in any other school before and am at a loss to understand the reasons behind this. I urge you to change the settings on your phone immediately and contact the school to discuss issues if you feel that this is your only option. We obviously need to work together to address such issues immediately.



supporting individual excellence



Many thanks

Emma Hillman  
Headteacher

