

28 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

During the week commencing 2nd February 2026 we will be holding a lockdown drill. This is in line with the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, named after Martyn Hett, a victim of the Manchester Arena attack in 2017.

Members of the leadership team, site support team and I have been undergoing training on the implementation of this law for some time now. We have also been working closely with other businesses who share the site, such as Dunston Hill School and Equans.

A lockdown drill cannot possibly pre-empt any eventuality. The potential triggers for a lockdown are widely varied and may call upon very different approaches and responses. The purpose of a drill is to ensure that processes are in place for those first few minutes. This is where we ensure everyone who is using the building is as safe as possible, identify the threat, identify safe locations and establish clear communications within the building and with emergency services. Knowing that we have this in place will then help us to adapt decisions and actions as any threat progresses.

We have put processes in place to support your child during the drill. This includes some pre-learning about the processes of the lockdown and reasons why one may occur. This means that they are pre-informed and have many fears alleviated. Some students have been identified as needing additional support during the drill and we have put this in place. There will be further learning and a chance for feedback after the drill. This opportunity for feedback and questions will also be extended to you. There will be further communication after the drill and some frequently asked questions shared and responded to.

I have also made a short video to accompany this letter which you may like to watch here: <https://youtu.be/BXIBe9jXc0s>.

It is rare for schools to have to enter into lockdown. Whilst we hope never to have to use these procedures for real, we must be prepared for the small chance that we might have to. Please be reassured that keeping your children safe is always at the forefront of our minds at all times - both during this drill and in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Barrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Barrett  
Head Teacher