



Community College

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have noticed an increasing number of children coming to school on bikes and scooters. It is great to see children being active in a world that is overshadowed by technology and devices. We feel passionate about lifelong fitness and have exciting plans ahead to develop this provision within school.

However, we have also noticed an increase in students not wearing helmets, riding bikes that don't have working brakes, or any brakes at all which causes us great concern. In the past weeks, we are aware of serious accidents across the City, some of which have involved our children.

This letter is written with permission from one of our parents whose child remains under the care of Bristol Children's Hospital after being there for eight weeks, following a serious accident in which he nearly lost his life. Marcel is in Year 8 and his Mum wanted to share how important helmets are:

"I appeal to all parents as the mother of Marcel, who had a bicycle accident and was hit by a van. He suffered serious head injuries. It is so important for your child to ride their bike with a helmet on their head. I know that this would have significantly protected my child from the effects of the accident and injuries that my son has suffered."

From September, we will be running bikeability courses for selected students; we are liaising with Sustrans to run bike maintenance sessions on site; and we are bringing in new rules for children who wish to bring their bike/scooter to school.

Should a child wish to ride their bike/scooter to/from school, they MUST:

- **Wear a helmet**
- **Having working brakes (on bikes)**
- **Have a bike/scooter in good working order**
- **And we recommend students have lights for the winter months (but this is not compulsory)**

Should children arrive at school without the above, then we won't release their bike/scooter at the end of the day and will require a parent/carers to collect it from school.

We already have bike stands at both entrances where students can lock up their bikes/scooters and are purchasing lockers for their helmets during the day, to save them carrying them around the school.

We're sure you share our concern and wouldn't want any harm to come to any child. We feel these measures ensure our students are as safe as possible as they travel to and from school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stoke Damerel Community College

Anita Frier, Headteacher

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