

Hewett House Newsletter

8th May 2009

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Parents should be very proud of their daughters this week. The girls acted calmly and sensibly when the school and the Hostel had to lock down on Thursday due to an arm defender's alert.

The school and Hostel reacted immediately to the police call and within minutes all School and Hostel girls had been locked in. Three Hostel girls remained at school locked in the school hall, with all other Hostel girls being secured in the dining and recreation areas of the Hostel main building.

The senior girls were amazing, quickly organizing activities and keeping the girls busy. A few girls were a little upset but with regular communications settled down with little fuss.

The Hostel is still open over the weekend but will require girls to travel to and from town, movies or pools by taxi, and to keep well clear of the danger zone. Girls will be allowed down to the dairy in groups but are to come straight back after they have made their purchases.

The Hostel has increased its Armourguard security measures over the weekend and our live in school caretaker Mr Sayers will be on high alert.

The Hostel also has a supervisor, Caroline Parsons, living on site. Caroline's flat looks over Mathew's units and she has quick access to this area. She is on call on the weekends if required.

Mrs Nikolic and Mrs Whare will be operating as normal from the main building.

School was open today with a large number of day girl absences. Internals or assessments due today have been postponed until next week.

The Hostel will continue to supply a slice or biscuit for supper. The Hostel was attempting to reduce the intake of sugar in the girl's diets but the feedback suggested parents did not want the Hostel to take away this treat.

Thank you to the parents for voicing their views on the supper issue.

Girls are allowed to bring a hot water bottle into the Hostel. A hot water bottle can be comforting in the winter, and can also help if a girl suffers bad period pains.

Congratulations to Georgina Bond who has been awarded the Advanced Classical Ballet Scholarship to attend the NZ School of Dance Winter Seminar in the July holidays.

Finally I would like to inform parents that the school and the Hostel will be visited by the Education Review Office from the 25th of May through to the 2nd of June. The personal will be visiting the Hostel as part of their review and will talk to a selection of girls, staff and parents about the running of the Hostel.

Have a safe weekend.

Kind regards

Varinia Larder
Hostel Manager