

Ref: **MM**/ms

6th July 2010

Dear Parent / Carer

You may be aware that for health and safety reasons the college was evacuated yesterday afternoon. I can confirm that a serious matter was investigated as follows with police support and involvement:

A student suffered self inflicted burn injuries. He was taken to hospital where he is currently receiving medical treatment and is in a stable condition. His belongings were examined by staff and items were discovered which had the appearance of explosives. Police were alerted and the school was evacuated as a safety precaution in accordance with emergency protocol. After police examination, it was found that the items **did not** contain explosive or unlawful material.

I feel it is important to share this information with you as rumours can undoubtedly cause further unnecessary concern. Please be assured that we are working closely with North Tyneside Children's Services, healthcare professionals and police to further investigate events.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our students' behaviour throughout the evacuation. The vast majority were a credit to Burnside, acting in a responsible and sensible manner.

As always, we continue to value your support as parents.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Murphy
Headteacher