



The Collegiate Trust

Exceptional Education for All

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Bourneview Crossing, Kenley**

Thank you for the numerous messages of condolence and support that we have received since the tragic accident, just over a week ago. It is clear that, whether or not Jaiden was personally known, his death has had a huge impact on our community and beyond. In addition to the feelings of grief, shock and reminders of previous bereavements, the circumstances of Jaiden's accident have led many to question their own safety, or the safety of their children, on their way to and from school. Students have been reminded of safe travel habits and Mr Osborne included some guidance for parents/carers in his most recent letter, which we hope will be helpful in supporting conversations at home. Whilst safely crossing roads, taking extra care at bus stops and stations and avoiding contact with strangers are all common issues to address, the crossing of railway tracks via a designated uncontrolled pedestrian path is not – yet this describes precisely the site of Jaiden's fatal accident.

**It is our view that “passive crossings” like Bourneview, where Jaiden lost his life, should not exist** – certainly not in a densely populated area, with a very large secondary school and a number of primary schools in the vicinity. The Bourneview level crossing is not controlled in any way – there is a “kissing gate” at each end, which can easily be opened, and a sign warning pedestrians to “Stop, Look, Listen”. Beyond this, there is nothing to stop a child from walking straight onto the tracks, which currently see four trains passing the crossing per hour. On the other side, children would then need to cross the busy A22 Godstone Road, at a place where there is no zebra or pedestrian crossing, in order to climb up Riddlesdown Common towards the Collegiate. The tracks can be more safely crossed via the footbridges at Kenley Station or on New Barn Lane, both about 10-15 minutes walk away. The existence of this crossing seems completely unnecessary and unsafe.

Network Rail has published a long term strategy entitled “[Enhancing Level Crossing Safety 2019-2029](#)” which states that “*the safest level crossing is a closed one*”. Since 2009, over 1,000 level crossings have been closed and £200m has been invested in improving safety at level crossing sites. We have written to Andrew Haines, CEO of Network Rail, seeking his commitment to have this dangerous crossing at Bourneview, which has now led to the accidental death of an 11 year old boy, either modified to significantly reduce the risk to pedestrians or ideally closed and sealed off entirely from public use. In response, we have already received a letter of acknowledgement and condolence, with a commitment to “reviewing the important and pressing concerns as a priority”. We look forward to a further response soon. In the meantime, we would encourage [support via a petition](#) that has been started over the weekend: it already has 800+ signatures, demonstrating the strength of feeling in the community.

Please take time to reinforce with your child the important messages about safe travel habits, including the very strong advice to avoid level crossings altogether. Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey  
Chief Executive Officer

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Chair of Board of Directors

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