



Dear parents,

We write to apprise you of a regrettable incident that transpired this morning at Montmorency Riding Academy. An altercation occurred wherein a student wielded a weapon, endangering fellow pupils and equine companions. Prompt measures were taken to apprehend the student, who has since been removed from the premises. We are relieved to confirm that neither students, instructors, nor animals sustained harm.

Our understanding indicates that the student involved was influenced by persistent verbal harassment and reacted by threatening peers. Regrettably, the student resorted to breaking into our historical archives and taking Sir Montmorency's horse whip, purportedly to "defend the honour of the horses". Additionally, the student attempted unsupervised mounting of Thunderbird, our 1996 & 1997 dressage champion, resulting in a disturbance that led to Thunderbird fleeing the academy grounds.

This incident is of utmost seriousness, and we wish to inform our parents and guardians that the aforementioned student has been expelled forthwith, and Thunderbird has been safely retrieved, reinstated within the grounds and has been cleared to compete for another year.

At Montmorency Riding Academy, safety remains paramount. We are diligently adhering to counsel and collaborating closely with law enforcement to forestall such incidents in the future. We extend our sincere apologies to the families of affected pupils and extend an invitation to concerned parents or guardians to attend an imminent safety seminar addressing appropriate conduct. Attendance for students is mandatory.

We urge you to engage in dialogue with your child about feeling safe and assure them that they may confide in you, an instructor, or a responsible adult regarding any potential threats to the welfare of our faculty, students, or animals. If weapons or potentially dangerous paraphernalia are present in your household, even if for display purposes, we advise securing them in a designated, safe location.

Please know we will maintain communication with parents as developments unfold, and hope that we may glean valuable lessons from this unfortunate occurrence.

Should you harbor any lingering concerns, we remain at your disposal for further inquiries at 03 7010 3042.

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW CAMPBELL

THE PRESIDENT, MONTMORENCY RIDING ACADEMY

 03 7010 3042