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learners who aspire for themselves and inspire others

28 February 2025

AUDIENCE: WHOLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware from our previous correspondence, drugs are a constant threat to young people and the relative affluence of Fleet makes our young people a particular draw for drug dealers and gangs. We are very vigilant around this and our PSHE and other programmes regularly raise students' awareness of the dangers. We do, however, need to remain proactive in how we help to safeguard our community, and particularly our students.

We have previously written to you, seeking to protect our students from the dangers posed by illicit substances including, but not limited to, THC vapes, edibles and cannabis. As part of our ongoing work and education around the misuse of substances we will continue our partnership working with K9 (Professional Sniffer Dogs Organisation) and our Hart Safer Community Team.

You may also have read in the press about 'County Lines'. This is an illegal system whereby gangs from inner cities run drugs networks in the provinces and entrap children as young as eight into couriering drugs for them. With a direct train line to London, Fleet is firmly on the radar of these gangs and we have to actively counter the attempts of these groups of criminals to recruit our youngsters.

As part of disrupting County Lines, we will be bringing drugs dogs into the school on a given date. This is not in response to any particular information or threat, but a more general welfare concern and on the basis that schools that regularly have drugs dogs visiting are less desirable places to recruit students. Several schools in the locality have used a professional organisation and it has proved to be a very positive experience. We feel it is incumbent upon us as an educational setting to do everything we can to safeguard our students from these malign influences outside our immediate control.

If you have any particular concerns (i.e. a child with an allergy to or a phobia of dogs) then please let contact our Safeguarding Team (safeguarding@cps.hants.sch.uk) and we will manage this with sensitivity. Inevitably the arrival of detection dogs can lead to speculation on social media – which is more often than not wrong – so by pre-empting it we hope to quash rumours that will inevitably emerge.

To reassure you, an interest shown by a trained detection dog does not necessarily mean there is a problem or the student is carrying an illicit substance but it will demonstrate the need for further investigation. Our Safeguarding Team will work collaboratively with K9 and will conduct searches of student possessions/outer clothing where necessary.



These visits serve to reinforce the school's policies and conduct requirements for our students and will help us ensure that our school community remains safe whilst also sending a strong message to others in the community that our students are not easy prey for recruitment into County Lines operations.

Should you feel that you may already be affected in some way by this issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Safeguarding Team.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K John
Headteacher

