



Date 1st December 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Knife crime is a topic that is of huge importance for our youth today. As knife crime levels across the country rise, so too does the fear of it. That is why it is more important than ever to have serious conversations with young people to educate them on the risks and how to stay safe.

As an Academy, our approach is to be initiative-taking rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce the risk of harm. Therefore, we will continue to work with West Midlands Police to undertake a mixture of education and enforcement activities to inform young people on the dangers and consequences of carrying knives.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we have successfully secured guest speakers to deliver the Precious Lives workshop. The workshop provides students with an opportunity to meet an adult who has real-life experience of knife crime either as a victim, offender, or professional, to help them understand the consequences of carrying or using a knife.

The guest speaker will share their experiences and pass on the lessons they have learned. The sessions are designed to be hard-hitting and impactful with an emphasis placed on connecting with the young people and delivering a message.

Workshops taking place in school next week:

Year 7 Monday 5th Dec 2022

L half 9:00 till 10:00

J half 10:00 till 11:00

Year 8 Tuesday 6th Dec 2022

8:40 to 9:40

I would also like to inform you that selected members of the Senior Leadership Team will engage in a programme throughout this Academic Year whereby they will use a hand-held metal detector (knife wands) to carry out searches. The knife wands are an effective tool to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students, staff, visitors and the wider community and they are not intrusive.

I appreciate that some students may find the experience upsetting however, it is essential we are proactive to protect our students from the threat of knives/weapons while they are in the Academy as well as educating them about the dangers of carrying a weapon.

Can I also promote the website below, this is part of a police initiative to reduce knife crime: [LifeorKnife | West Midlands Police \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/lifeorknife)

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Joseph Leckie
Academy

This project has already been successfully rolled out in school and colleges across the county and has the sole aim of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

We urge you to have discussions with your child(ren) to reinforce the dangers of carrying a weapon, but also to encourage them to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have concerns that someone, they know is carrying a weapon and posing a danger to themselves and others.

If you have any queries or require further information about this safety partnership initiative project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours faithfully

Mr. James Ludlow
Principal

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