



Joseph Leckie Academy

Knife Crime Awareness Programme

September 9th 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

On Thursday, September 12th 2019, all Year 7 and Year 8 students will be taking part in a video presentation involving officers from Walsall Police on the very important issue of knife crime. The programme will be as follows:

- Year 7 students will be off timetable 9:00 till 10:00 am Thursday, September 12th
- Year 8 students will be off timetable 10:00 till 11:00 am Thursday, September 12th

Each year group will spend an hour in the West Hall, the session is broken up into three sections:

- A brief introduction from a Police Officer who investigated the murder of a young person.
- A short video where the parents of James Brindley share their message focusing on the impact of knife crime on their family. James was killed in Aldridge on 23rd June 2017.
- A second video, featuring a 19-year-old male who is serving a life sentence for murder and attempted murder, committed in Handsworth Birmingham when he was just 15-years-old. He is now aged 19 and has agreed to work with the Police and schools hoping that sharing his story will make youngsters think about the dangers of carrying a knife.

I appreciate that some students may find the message we are sending out upsetting but it is essential that we raise awareness of this very important issue. As you may know, there are growing concerns about knife crime which is a reality within Walsall and across the UK.

Joseph Leckie Academy

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When a young person decides to pick up a knife they are potentially making a fatal decision. As staff and parents, we need to do the right thing, we need to intervene early to prevent violence, death or serious injury and reduce future offending behaviour.


Over the last academic year, we have worked alongside Walsall Police to deliver workshops designed to raise awareness of issues which affect young people across Walsall. As an Academy, our approach is to be proactive rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and away from harm.

Walsall Police would like our students to help them to educate children about the repercussions of becoming involved in carrying weapons. They would like Year 7 and 8 students to evaluate this Knife Crime presentation before the official media launch on the 16th of September.

I hope that you will agree that our approach to keeping our students safe is one that you are able to support and that you will take the opportunity to discuss the presentation with your son or daughter.

Should you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Whittlestone', is written above a horizontal line.

Keith Whittlestone

Principal