

Dear all,

Following on from my communication with you earlier this week, I am writing now with further details about the awareness-raising sessions that we are going to be doing with all our young people over the next few weeks.

I am sure you are all aware of the serious incident which took place in our community over the school holidays on New Year's Day and we are also aware that there have been rumours and concerns around planned incidents between students within our community.

Please be reassured that we are in direct and frequent contact with colleagues from other schools, as well as the police so that we can proactively share any information. It is a positive sign of our safeguarding culture that students are talking to us about this, and we therefore have intelligence at an early stage. Thank you also to those of you who have shared information with us. If you ever have any information to share, you can contact us on 01536 532700 and Northamptonshire Police using the details on this page. [Contact us | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk)

Like all schools, we have a key role in helping educate and support young people around these issues through our personal development curriculum. We already cover the dangers associated with exploitation and criminal activity but in partnership with the Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and other schools in the local area, we will be supplementing this with a targeted set of support focused on educating our children about the dangers of knife crime over the next few weeks.

The detail in this letter is aimed at sessions for our older students in Years 10 and 11. We also have sessions planned for our KS3 students and this will be communicated separately; however, I wanted all of you to have sight of the work we are doing as I know we will all be aligned on the importance of this topic.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, all Year 10 and 11 students will take part in a 2-hour session, delivered by Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) and one of their partners – Exodus. Tutors will share the specific times of the session next week, but it will mean students in these year groups will be off timetable during the school day for approximately a 2 hour period.

### **Who are CIRV? What do they do?**

CIRV is the programme that was adopted by Northamptonshire Police and the office of the Police and Fire Commissioner to tackle the violence and drugs associated with gangs in our

community. CIRV has recently undergone some changes and has a renewed focus on the priority area of knife crime and associated gang culture.

CIRV engage with young people who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in knife crime and/or gang related activity. They adopt a holistic approach and aim to address the underlying causes of any referred person's involvement in knife crime.

### **Who are Exodus?**

Exodus are Youth Mentors from London that work with CIRV two days a week. Exodus work regularly with secondary schools across the country, including other schools in Northamptonshire. The feedback from students, staff, and parents who have had the opportunity to take part in the session have found it incredibly educational as well as eye-opening and I have experienced the delivery of this session in a previous school.

### **What will the session cover?**

The session aims to educate young people about the dangers of criminal exploitation and knife crime. It will include an Exodus Mentor telling his life story, as well as another Mentor who is local to our county. This Mentor will share his journey and talk about his work with CIRV and how he has made changes to his life.

### **What support will be available?**

We know that some students may find aspects of this session difficult, and we will make sure that we have staff on hand to support any young person who wishes to take a moment. The Exodus mentors will be available at lunchtime and after school to talk with any young people who may want to speak with them.

If as a result of the session, your child is worried or concerned about themselves or someone else, specifically in relation to knife crime and criminal exploitation, please encourage them to speak to their year team, a pastoral or safeguarding team member.

As always, if you have any concerns, please do get in touch.

Mrs Giovanelli