



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

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October 2022

Dear Parents

17 October Child Exploitation Workshop Day Years 7-11. Parents' workshop Years 7-13.

As part of our on-going safeguarding education, we will be running a series of workshops on child exploitation for students, staff and parents on 17 October.

Child exploitation is the abuse of children for profit, advantage or gratification. An estimated 46,000 children in England are being exploited as part of the illegal drugs trade, sometimes referred to as county lines. In the South West of the UK, including all areas of Dorset, there is a significant rise in county lines drug crime, whereby a large amount of young people as young as 8 years old, are being criminally and sexually exploited by gangs. These gangs proactively recruit young people to drug run in and around the South West, as well as outside the area. The gangs and criminal networks use extreme violence and intimidation towards these young people, which result in these young people feeling trapped and scared. They also train these young people to become recruiters and future gang members. As well as criminal exploitation, young people, in particular girls, are also being sexually exploited by these gangs.

The charity Escapeline are providing workshops and school assemblies in schools designed to help young people gain greater awareness of grooming, recruitment, criminal exploitation, CSE, gangs, peer pressure, peer on peer abuse, knife crime, drugs and other dangers.

Our students in Years 7-11 will take part in a 45-minute workshop with representatives from the charity throughout the day. At lunchtime, students will have the opportunity to speak to these representatives to gather more information and students will be reminded about how they can speak to someone in school should they need to.

We would like to invite parents, including parents of Sixth Form students, to a parent workshop at 6pm in the school hall. The workshop will last for an hour and will help parents to identify signs your child may be being exploited, to know the strategies that may limit the risk to your child and explain where to seek support if you feel your child may be at risk.

If you would like to join us, please email office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk with your name and the number of places you would like to reserve.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Duffy
Deputy Head and DSL