

Westbourne Academy

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Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE
22 November 2018

Dear Parents

County Lines/Drugs Awareness Information Evening: Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 6.00pm

As members of the local community, we recognise that our young people are at risk of being affected by the impact of gangs and drugs in the area and further afield. This worrying issue is not confined to towns closest to London, such as Ipswich, it has gradually been spreading across the entire country. Over the last couple of years, we have taken steps to educate and raise awareness of these issues in school to ensure our young people understand the risks, the law and consequences of being involved in drugs and anti-social behaviour.

Along with other local schools, we have received support from both the police, local authority and external providers to tackle the 'County Lines' topic which is so often in the news. Safeguarding training for our staff focuses on understanding the issues of gangs and drug activities and ways in which we can best support students who may be at risk. Members of our governing body, pastoral and senior leadership teams have also attended County Lines conferences and local meetings.

Claire Prosser, the Locality Officer at Suffolk County Council, has offered to host an information evening for parents and carers on **Tuesday 4 December 2018** starting at 6.00pm and finishing at approximately 7.00pm. The following topics will be discussed and there will be a number of short films:

- What drugs are/what they look like and what does the paraphernalia look like
- What are the signs and symptoms that parents need to look out for
- What are the key vulnerabilities
- Child and adolescent brain development and understanding risk
- What to do and where to go if you have concerns

We hope that you will be interested in attending this event to help raise awareness of the sorts of issues currently being faced by our young people. By working together and raising awareness in this way, we will be able to disrupt how these gangs operate and manipulate to take advantage of the young and the vulnerable.

We are limited to a maximum of 300 people in the hall for health and safety purposes. If the event is oversubscribed we will endeavour to arrange a second evening after Christmas. To give us an indication of numbers, please register your attendance on EventBrite by pasting the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-parent-info-evening-tickets-52909041367>

Yours sincerely

Mr G Trott
Principal

