

12 November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Visit from K9 Deployment

As a school we take the safeguarding of our students very seriously and we do all we can to ensure that students feel safe on our site, so they can concentrate on learning and growing as individuals. This is no more important than when we carry out part of our PSHE programme linked to drugs.

With County Lines reaching out from major cities to our counties, young people in the local area have easier access to cannabis and other drugs, and we feel it is our responsibility as a school to do everything we can do to ensure that we continue to have a drug free site.

Therefore, between now and the Christmas break we will be having a visit from K9 Deployment and one of their search dogs. These dogs have been used in numerous secondary schools and allow us to reassure you as parents that we are proactive and take this issue seriously. In other schools, this scheme has been used as both a deterrent and preventative measure and I hope that you will support us with this initiative. All search dogs and their handlers from K9 Deployment are trained and accredited to Association of Chief Police Officer (ACPO) standards.

We are conscious that we may have students who feel a little nervous around dogs and we will be sensitive to this on the day they visit. A member of our inclusion team will be present at all times to support.

Maiden Erlegh School prides itself on its approach to safeguarding and protecting our young people and their families. Should you wish to read further about the current drug concerns for young people, and the government approach to protecting young people and vulnerable adults, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>.


In addition, the National Crime Agency explains statistics surrounding County Lines:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

We have the support of Thames Valley Police and our local police community support team with this initiative. Should you need any further advice, or wish to discuss this in more detail, please contact the school.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher