



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life

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January 25th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Joining forces to keep our young people safe

I am resending this letter that was first issued to you last Summer, when the partnership of 13 local schools and colleges called, **Hampshire Safe**, first came into being, as a result of a joint initiative between Headteachers, College Principals and the Police. As parents, carers and teachers we all want the same for our children – and that is for them to be safeguarded and fully prepared for adult life.

Young people today face many new pressures that were not such an issue when we were young. One area of concern is access to drugs and the range of substances now available.

We are determined to do our bit to not only educate your children to the harms of drug abuse but also make access to these substances far more difficult while young people are in our care.

That is why we have all joined forces on drug prevention and formed the partnership: we believe that by working together we can collectively not only raise awareness of the impact of substance misuse but also put measures in place to stop it from happening at our schools and colleges.

Headteachers and principals across the New Forest and Waterside have agreed with their governing bodies a common strategy on addressing substance misuse and a common 'Drugs and Substance Misuse' Policy. This will be available to you on our website in March 2019 following formal ratification.

As part of this anti-drug strategy, drug detection dogs have periodically been deployed in many local secondary schools within the partnership, along with colleges and pupil referral units to ensure our premises are drugs free. It is now our turn for this visit: the drug detection dog and its handler will be on **Thursday January 31st in the morning**. Future visits will be done without notice given of the date or time of day.

We wish to reassure you that the dogs will be deployed to search a whole building and **not** any individuals. However, during their search it is unlikely but possible that the dogs could detect drugs on students or in property belonging to students. Should that happen, anyone suspected to be in possession of illegal substances may be searched. Parents and carers will be informed as priority and the police may be involved. Additionally, students and families affected would be signposted to support, be that ELSA, counselling or other external support services. Any student found in possession of illegal substances could be at risk of exclusion or face prosecution.

We hope you will support us as a partnership of schools and colleges that are taking a strong stance against substance abuse.

Our schools and colleges are safe places and we will do everything we can to maintain this. Above all, we shall seek to educate our young people about the dangers of drugs, because prevention is always the best policy.

You can assist us and the police in keeping our community safe by reporting any suspicious local activity to Hampshire Police by calling 101, and I am grateful for those of you who have done so this week on the subject of online safety in response to my email about this.

Thank you for supporting this New Forest-wide initiative and for doing your all with me to keep our young people safe.



Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact your child's House Leaders or myself on the headteacher email address: headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

For your information, the 13 schools and colleges working together are:

Noadswood School, Ringwood School, New Forest Academy, The Arnewood School, The Burgate School, Totton College, Brockenhurst College, Eaglewood School, Applemore College, Priestlands School, Greenwood School, Testwood School and Hounslow School.

Yours faithfully



Miss K L Marshall

Headteacher

