



12th March 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

As you may have seen in the press and on television, the government has raised national concerns around young people carrying weapons and knives. Both the West Midlands Police Force and the Warwickshire Police Force are working hard to be proactive in tackling these dangers and have completed sweeps of local parks, checking for hidden weapons. To further this work, the police are also collaborating with schools to speak directly to students about the hazards of carrying weapons. We have already collaborated with the police through having assemblies and guest speakers from families who have been directly affected by these tragedies.

The police are planning to visit all schools and colleges across Solihull, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby, with a metal detector arch to raise awareness of their campaign and highlight the importance of student safety. During the day, the police will set up the arch and students will be encouraged to walk through with officers present, and should the arch be activated, officers will check for any metal objects. This short activity has proven to be highly effective across schools in Birmingham, as it provides a talking point and raises awareness about knife crime in the school community.

In Warwickshire, this programme of work will go under the name Operation Impression. It is important that as the parent / carer of our students you understand that this is not being undertaken due to any specific concerns relating to The Coleshill School or Warwickshire and the West Midlands in general. It is in response to national concerns around a rise in knife crime involving young people.

The Coleshill School is very supportive of these measures as it helps to safeguard young people and ensures a safe environment for all staff and visitors. We would recommend that parents and carers speak to their children and have an open and honest conversation about the dangers of carrying a knife and what the implications might be for them and your family. Carrying a knife for your own protection is more likely to end with that knife being used against you. The majority of the weapons seized by the police are basic kitchen knives, not specialist knives.

More information can be found on the Warwickshire Police website and other websites listed below:
www.warwickshire.police.uk/54987
www.fearless.org/
www.knifefree.co.uk/

Yours faithfully

Ian Smith-Childs

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