



Kents Hill Park School

Timbold Drive, Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

Headteacher: Mr. James Pilgrim

14th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Currently in the national media there has been a focus on the concerns around young people carrying knives and the tragedies that unfold as a result. It is important that the issues of knife crime and culture are addressed in a sensitive and constructive manner with young people. As part of the public health approach in raising the awareness of personal safety amongst young people, all secondary schools in Milton Keynes have been given the opportunity to highlight current issues using an independent workshop approach.

On Wednesday February 27th a play entitled "Breaking the chain" will be performed to all pupils. Following the performance there will be the opportunity for pupils to ask questions concerning the subject matter and the topic will be revisited in PHSCE lessons.

'Breaking the Chain' is a hard-hitting theatre production that aims to raise awareness, kick-start conversations and build resilience around youth violence, with a focus on knife crime, an issue that is seeing young people seriously hurt and, all too often, killed on the streets of our towns and cities.

The play aims to:-

- **Break the chain** by reassuring young people that knife carrying is not actually common and that they do not need to **carry knives to protect themselves** from other knife carriers
- Raise awareness around the **risks** and **consequences** of youth violence and knife crime on the individual and on their friends, families and on the wider community
- Build resilience by raising awareness, creating a common language and kick-starting conversations around the **influences, fears** and **pressures** that can lead to the decision to hurt someone or to carry a knife and how these can be managed or avoided
- Build resilience by raising awareness of and promoting the **core skills** (including but not limited to: self-confidence, self-esteem, risk assessment, emotional intelligence, empathy, decision making, recognising healthy relationships) that can be used help young people to navigate a whole host of issues, **critical moments** and **adverse childhood experiences** that they may encounter
- Raise awareness around the importance of **seeking help and advice** or telling someone if they are concerned about themselves, a friend or someone they know.
- Sign-post who young people can **speak** to

I am sure that you will agree that it is important to raise the issue of knife crime with pupils and to provide them with the opportunity to discuss the resulting concerns, offering advice and support. If you have any further questions regarding this performance please contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully

Mark McGarvie
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Designated Safeguarding Lead

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