



Dorset Council, Chesil Locality Team
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21 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: 'Chesil Safe' – Drugs Awareness & Education

We are writing to make you aware of an upcoming Drug Awareness & Education programme in which each of the local secondary schools and Weymouth College will take part.

Working in partnership with the Dorset Council Chesil Locality Team, our organisations are committed to providing education about the dangers of drug misuse and providing support to those affected.

Teenage experimentation with a range of substances is nothing new. It is, however, incumbent upon us as the present educational leaders and local authority representatives to make sure that the current students in our area understand the short term and long term risks associated with drug misuse.

It is our shared view that the problem of drug misuse is rarely confined to any one organisation or area but is a nationwide issue.

In recent years, organised criminal gangs have increasingly targeted areas outside cities through a network of dealers and distributors in illegal operations commonly known as County Lines. This involves the targeting and grooming of children and young people who are entrapped to act as runners for gangs in return for cash, gifts and drugs. It can be incredibly difficult for those caught up to escape.

You can find out more about County Lines by watching an informative BBC Documentary that can be accessed here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p05hktz9/britains-teenage-drug-runners>

As part of our educational programme 'Chesil Safe,' we have arranged a visit to each of our organisations from K9 Deployment, a company that specialises in the deployment of drugs search dogs. Please find enclosed a short letter from K9 Deployment.

The team from K9 Deployment regularly take part in assemblies / class activities, explaining the types of dogs they use, how they work and carry out small demonstrations. This has been undertaken by schools / colleges in other parts of Dorset and the feedback from teachers and students is that similar visits have proven to be an excellent resource in raising student awareness.

Visits to our area will take place as per the below timetable:

All Saints CE Academy	Budmouth Academy	Wey Valley Academy	Atlantic Academy	The Compass	Weymouth College
Mon 7 June	Tue 8 June	Wed 9 June	Thu 10 June (Morning)	Thu 10 June (Afternoon)	Friday 11 June

During these visits at the Chesil Schools, all year groups will take part in assemblies / class visits delivered by Senior Leaders, members of the Inclusion / Pastoral team and representatives from K9 Deployment to educate students about the issues of drug misuse, County Lines and what young people need to know in order to stay safe.

Police officers will not be present during these initial visits, but we will arrange follow up input from Dorset Police's Safer Schools & Communities Team as part of our ongoing educational programmes.

We hope that you are reassured by this initiative. We had planned to begin this in March 2020, just before the start of the global Covid 19 pandemic but have been unable to do so due to coronavirus restrictions. There is evidence that it is just as important now as it was going to be then.

Each of us has a part to play in ensuring every child and young person is kept safe throughout their education and this can best be achieved by working collaboratively and with expert support.

Finally, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant colleague below.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Twigg, Senior Manager – Chesil Locality Dorset Council



Mr J Cornish, Principal, All Saints CE Academy



Mrs L Bishop, Principal, Atlantic Academy



Mr D Herbert, Principal, Budmouth Academy



Ms A Glazier, Headteacher, The Compass



Mr R Russell, Principal, Wey Valley Academy



Julia Howe, Interim Principal, Weymouth College



**Specialists in the Deployment of
Drugs Search Dogs & Patrol Dogs**

As part of our determination to educate students about and protect them from the dangers of illicit drugs, we have been invited by your child's Academy / School / College to arrange a visit from K9 Deployment as part a programme of work that is delivered through assemblies / class visits and / or as part of the School's PSHE Programme.

In the light of recent news items about "County Lines", we have arranged for a drugs sniffer dog to attend a day during June 2021. Ensuring that every Academy / School / College is a safe, drug free and healthy environment for all students to learn and develop is a priority and reflects our organisation's values and expectations, as well as those of your child's Academy / School. It is with these goals in mind that we are undertaking this visit. Your son / daughter has had this explained to them prior to the visit.

Our sniffer dogs are highly trained and will visit with an expert handler, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team. Throughout the day, the dog will move around the Academy / School / College from class to class and in shared areas, such as playgrounds, the library and reception.

We know from previous experience that similar visits are very well received and are an integral part of educational programmes to help ensure the safety and well-being of students at your child's Academy / School / College.

If you have any questions about the visit, please kindly contact the above named contacts at your child's Academy / School / College.

Yours sincerely

K9 Deployment