



Joseph Leckie Academy

1st May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Unfortunately, the Knife arch was not available on the 21st March, therefore we have arranged an alternative visit for the 7th May 2019.

I am sure that you will be fully aware that knife crime and youth violence have become depressingly regular features in the news / media. Week after week we hear about another young life taken, a family heartbroken and a community shattered.

All over the country, young people are under threat because of individuals carrying knives. There has been a sharp rise in incidents in the West Midlands, which includes Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Walsall. The region has already recorded the highest number of youth knife deaths in 40 years, with six young people aged between eight to 19 dying from knife attacks this year.

As an Academy, our approach is to be proactive rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce the risk of harm. Therefore, the following intervention has been agreed with Walsall Police on Tuesday 7th May 2019 Walsall Police will be in Joseph Leckie Academy from 8.00 am to 12:15pm.

We have decided the best way to raise awareness of knife crime is to have the knife arch in the Academy. Police will start off in the CBB building during Form time, the arch will be brought into each classroom and students will be asked to walk through the arch.

The knife arch will stay in the CBB building initially for Form time and Period 1. Police will work along the corridor going into each classroom, the arch will then move to the KWB and carry out the same task. It is likely the arch will move between both buildings during periods 2 and 3.

I appreciate that some students may find the experience upsetting however, it is essential we are pro-active to protect our students from the threat of knives while they are in the Academy as well as educating them about the dangers of carrying a weapon.

I hope that you will agree that our approach to keeping our students safe is one that you are able to support and that you will take the opportunity to discuss the intervention with your son or daughter and impress on him / her the dangers of carrying a knife and to ensure as much as you are able that they do not ever carry a knife and do not associate with anyone else who may do so.

Should you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Reminder: The Academy will be closed on Monday 6th May 2019 for the Bank holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Whittlestone', is written above a horizontal line.

Keith Whittlestone

Principal

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