

9 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

RHPD Keeping our young people safe

As part of your child's RHPD curriculum this year we are soon going to be covering two important topics which are under the theme of keeping our young people safe.

First, year 9 students will be exploring the importance of role models and support networks in relation to choosing, and maintaining, a knife-free lifestyle. This up-coming lesson will also explore how young people themselves can act as role models and provide sources of support for their peers.

Secondly, they will be learning about breast and testicular cancer. The lesson will cover some key facts about how young people can look after their own health, and encourage them to think sensitively, as well as learn how to self check and look out for signs and symptoms.

Both lessons will build upon knowledge in an age-appropriate way within the context. Correct language for the context will be used, supporting students to keep safe, feel confident to ask questions and promote discussion in an open, mature and appropriate way.

Whilst knife crime may not be a matter of extreme urgency in our area or school, we recognise that there is increasing pressure for young people to conform and that they often operate very freely in the online world leading to the potential for risk. By Year 9, some students are likely to be living a substantial proportion of their life online and absorbing a wide range of influences. By tackling the impact of role models on young people's attitudes, decisions and behaviour within the lessons, the content is designed to promote and support their safety.

Likewise, cancer detection may seem like a distant idea for year 9 students - however the NHS studies show that early detection can help save lives so we will ensure our students are aware of how to detect the symptoms of these two more common cancer types as well as how to reduce the risks of them developing.

Parents and carers are the most important educators of young people in personal issues and many welcome the support that we as a school can offer to supplement their home teaching on matters such as knife crime and criminal exploitation, as well as matters to do with their health and well being. For further parental information on discussing such matters, please go to the following websites: <https://www.noknivesbetterlives.com/> <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/can>

[cer-information-and-support/diagnosis/talking-about-cancer/talking-to-children-and-teenagers](#)

We recognise that these can be sensitive topics, but nonetheless they are important ones. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to your child's teacher, Head of House, or myself and we will ensure that your child is supported.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Everest', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr N Everest
Head of Character and Culture