

8 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 RHPD lessons

As a part of your child's education at The Weald, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Relationships, Health and Personal Development programme (RHPD). Within the Year 9 RHPD curriculum, your child will be exploring the importance of role models and support networks in relation to choosing, and maintaining, a knife-free lifestyle. The up-coming lesson will also explore how young people themselves can act as role models and provide sources of support for their peers.

Our lesson 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. The lesson content will build upon the recent presentation to students by Martin Cosser from Charlie's Promise, a national campaign to educate young people on the dangers of knife crime.

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.

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. For further parental information on discussing such matters, please go to: <https://www.noknivesbetterlives.com/>

As I am sure that you are aware, the consequences of being found in possession of a knife are serious and long lasting, affecting education, employment and travel opportunities, but most crucially, life. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact your child's Head of House at school if you feel your child is at risk.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Everest
Head of Character and Culture