



18 May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership will be holding four information and awareness sessions for parents and carers of children and young people of secondary school age and those with children in Year 6.

- Gangs and Knife Crime: Tuesday 6 June 2017, 6pm – 8pm in Braintree Arts Theatre
- Social Media and the Internet: Wednesday 5 July 2017, 6pm – 8pm in Braintree Arts Theatre
- Drugs and Alcohol: Tuesday 12 September 2017, 6pm – 8pm in Braintree Arts Theatre
- Child Sexual Exploitation: Wednesday 18 October 2017, 6pm – 8pm in Braintree Arts Theatre

The sessions will give parents and carers useful tips and an insight into the issues children and young people face in today's modern society.

Drugs and Alcohol – these sessions will be run by Action on Addiction who are a national charity with a programme in Essex based in the Braintree district.

The session will cover the most commonly used illicit substances used by young people including former legal highs and alcohol use. The trainer will discuss with you ways to talk with your child about substances, look at brief intervention techniques and who to contact should you require additional support and advice.

Gangs and Knife Crime – these sessions will be run by Gavin McKenna from Reach Every Generation who exist to shape a better future for tomorrow's generation, winning back those caught up in the gang culture.

The session is specifically designed to educate parents and carers on gangs and gang culture, understand the warning signs of potential gang involvement or association and how to act. It will cover the increasing role of social media for gang recruitment and the behavioural patterns to watch out for. There will be a frank and honest discussion about the root reasons behind why children and young people get involved in gangs.

Sexual Exploitation – these sessions will be run by the Children's Society who are a national charity that runs local projects, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn.

The session aims to help parents and carers understand what Child Sexual Exploitation is and how to spot the signs, issues around sexting and internet safety, consent, and services that can offer support.

Social Media and Internet Safety – these sessions will be run by the 2 Johns who are well known throughout Essex and specialise in the delivery of parents' and carers' events.

These sessions aim to bring parents and carers up-to-date regarding the apps their children are using, and how they could be directly targeted in that environment by paedophiles. Those attending will be provided with figures as to the number of children and young people that have been spoken to online within the previous week, figures which will undoubtedly shock anyone that attends.

Please look out for the publicity material regarding these sessions as they will include all the dates, times and venues of each individual session. If you are interested in attending please email communityservices@braintree.gov.uk to book a place.

Yours faithfully

Mrs R Kelly
Deputy Headteacher
Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form