



Rossett School
Success for everyone

May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

One of the key duties of Rossett School is to ensure that our students' welfare is safeguarded at all times. To this end we are writing to you to inform you of an initiative regarding illegal substances that we are taking part in.

At Rossett School, in line with our illicit substances policy, we seek to educate students on drug and alcohol abuse through our assembly programme, our PSHCEE programme and through our off-timetable days, encouraging our young people to make the right choices. Drugs remain a key issue for young people today, having perhaps more or easier access to illegal substances than in previous years and with the advent of 'legal highs' this has only complicated matters further.

Working with other schools in the Harrogate and local area, we are keen to support our young people and address any issues that may affect our students. This local group of schools, Rossett School included, recently offered a parental support session held at St John Fisher Catholic High School on Wednesday 5th April, with police representation, regarding drug use, which was well-attended. The next step, in terms of tackling this issue, is to receive potentially annual visits from North Yorkshire Police with a sniffer dog. All parents and students will be notified in advance of an initial visit; however, subsequent visits will have no warning. Schools are legally within their rights to do this as the following excerpt demonstrates

"Headteachers are within their rights to invite the police or private companies to bring sniffer dogs onto schools premises or employ drug testing" (See DfE and NPCC drug advice for Schools).

Through the local behaviour collaborative all of our local secondary schools have agreed to support this initiative. However, we would like to reassure parents that we are not seeking to criminalise young people – we are seeking to ensure our schools are safe places for our students and communities.

We anticipate our initial visit from the Police with sniffer dogs will take place during the week commencing 19 June 2017.

Yours sincerely

L Macaulay
Headteacher

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