

# Safeguarding Update Letter

October 2024



We have completed our first half term of the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to see all of our students looking very smart in the new uniform and to welcome our new cohort of year 7s. They really have settled into high school life well.



## Things we have done

- Organised extra duties at break and lunchtime
- We have more staff at the H13 bus stop at the end of the day
- We are working on a new vaping strategy
- Trained nine new first-aiders
- Planned guest speakers and activities for our safeguarding week, 25th-29th November



## Safety

### Road safety:

Parents and carers, please be mindful when dropping off and picking up your children from school. Please do not make U-turns. Wiltshire Lane is highly residential and a very busy through road. The added traffic on the school run is becoming quite dangerous, and we have had a few near misses. The last thing we want is for an accident to happen.

### Parents need to know: What is Huffing?

Huffing is a recreational method teens use to inhale substances. They spray inhalants, such as aerosol bottles of air freshener or deodorants, into a towel and then press the towel to their noses or mouths. They then inhale the concentrated fumes to achieve a short-term high. Huffing has many dangerous physical and mental consequences. [Know more here](#)

### Stay Safe!

We are fast approaching winter, clocks are due to return within the week, and the daylight hours are becoming shorter. Pupils may find themselves travelling to and from school in the hours of darkness over the coming months. Pupils and their parents are reminded that to maximise their safety on their journeys to and from school, we would recommend the following:

- Where possible, students walk/travel in pairs or groups to and from school.
- Walk down well-lit main roads/routes. Avoid going through parks, alleys, or other unlit or poorly lit areas.
- Ensure they are alert to the environment around them, avoid wearing headphones, and avoid being distracted by mobile phones and other devices.
- Students should have a set route to and from school that is discussed with parents and carers.
- Parents and carers have a personal safety conversation with their children.
- If they are concerned about their safety, please call the police.



## Mental Health Awareness Day

Mental Health Awareness Day was celebrated this year on 10th October. 20% of adolescents may experience a mental health problem in any given year. 50% of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24. If you know a young person who may be suffering with their mental health, please do reach out to their school or GP. Young Minds is also a great source of help.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**