

Dear Parent/Carer

### County lines PSHE lesson

We are writing to inform you of a PSHE lesson that has been written by the College to educate all students in Year 8 to Year 11 on the subject matter of county lines. This decision has been made by the College safeguarding team due to drug-related concerns in the Cambridgeshire area and [national media coverage](#) of county lines.

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. This activity can happen locally or across the UK- no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims (Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2022).

The lesson includes a short video clip, recommended by Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Board and filmed by AlterEgo Creative Solutions, that illustrates the different stages of grooming that are used by criminals to entice young people into this world. Furthermore, the lesson provides students with information on what signs to look out for and what to do if they are concerned.

The College plans to host an online ‘live’ event on county lines for parents/carers to attend in the New Year. During this event we will use some of the lesson resources, including the short video clip, to further educate our wider community on this topic. We hope that this will be well attended as we know that some parents/carers are concerned about drugs in the local area.

Finally, we would like to offer some advice to parents/carers about what to do if there are any concerns around county lines. The [National Crime Agency](#) states *the best advice is to trust your instincts and even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out.* This can be done by:

- speaking to the local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999;
- contacting the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111 (this allows the reported to remain anonymous) and;
- reporting concerns linked to the railways to the British Transport Police by texting 61016 from your mobile.

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Principal: Helena Marsh MEd



Any drug-related information shared with the College is always taken seriously and followed up with the most appropriate services.

We will be in contact again soon with confirmation of our live event date and time.

Yours faithfully

Shahla Matarazzo  
Deputy Principal | DSL

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