

Safeguarding Bulletin

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support in keeping students safe at the College. This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin includes information on lots of different themes that have become topical this term such as: managing anxiety and stress; prejudice-based behaviour; the marketing of vapes and an update on the work of our healthy relationships working party.

Shahla Matarazzo

KS4 Study Skills Evening

On Thursday 31st March the College hosted an online study skills evening which included some pre-recorded videos by an occupational therapist on managing anxiety and exam related stress. These two videos can be viewed on the College website or via this [link](#). There is also a video on supporting stressed students for parents. The videos vary in length with the longest only being approximately 15 minutes. In our present context we know that many students are experiencing increased levels of anxiety and stress therefore believe that these videos will certainly be informative to all stakeholders and to you as parents and carers as well as our younger students.

Prejudice Based Behaviours

During the Spring term, we have dealt with some prejudice-based behaviours amongst a small minority of our students. Whilst each of these incidents have been appropriately dealt with, we would welcome our parents and carers engaging with this matter with their children over the Easter break. In particular, we would like parents and carers to discuss why it is unacceptable to speak or behave in a way that is discriminatory and offensive towards those with protected characteristics. The Equality Act 2010 defines the protected characteristics as: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Healthy Relationships Working Party Update

Over the last half term, the Healthy Relationships working party have continued to work with groups of students to fully understand the student experience at LVC. A key discussion item has been the use of sexist and homophobic language amongst the students, which is often regarded as “banter” or a joke, often without any understanding of what the terms used mean. The students have discussed with us in detail what they would like to happen if they are the victim of this kind of language, to ensure that all involved feel safe and respected. As a result of this, we have:

- Developed and delivered PSHE input around the history of discrimination towards the LGBTQ+ community, looking at what is and what is not appropriate terminology to use.
- Tailored the tutor time PSHE input to ensure students understand the true meaning of the sexist and homophobic terminology being used, and why this is hurtful.
- Discussed with students how we can best respond to reports of this behaviour.

The Marketing of Vapes



We would like to bring to your attention that new generation vapes are being designed to look like various pens and even air pods. We are aware that unfortunately some students are vaping and exchanging vapes therefore it is important that we inform our parents/carers what to look for if you are suspicious.