

Welcome and introduction

This half term, Anglian Learning conducted an audit into safeguarding at the College. This process involved: discussion with Mrs Marsh, Mrs Matarazzo and the wider safeguarding and mental health and wellbeing teams; a review of attendance, behaviour and pastoral care and their relationship to safeguarding concerns; checks of child protection and safer recruitment procedures, systems and logs as well as meetings with students and colleagues to find out more about personal development through the curriculum more broadly.

The final report states that College has *a strong culture of safeguarding within the school and students feel well supported. Students know where to go if they have a concern and they feel confident that the school will support them if they have a problem.* It continues that *there is a developing whole school approach to mental health which is being shaped by safeguarding trends and student and parent voice. Staff are open and reflective as to what students need and take steps to ensure that all cohorts of students feel comfortable to access help and support.* Finally, the College's work relating to prejudice-based behaviour is recognised in *leaders are responsive to recent issues with prejudicial language and behaviours and have put in place a thorough response to educate and raise awareness.*

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers who have contacted the safeguarding team to raise concerns. Everything raised with us is followed up and, where appropriate, we liaise with external agencies.

To contact us, please email: thinkpink@lintonvc.org

The College Safeguarding Team

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about our **trust safeguarding audit** and our **whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing**. It also includes an overview of topical issues such as **vaping** and **drugs**.

Mental Health/Wellbeing Support Update

This half term, all colleagues have been trained in mental health and wellbeing awareness by Sarah Hayes, school therapist and Shahla Matarazzo, Designated Safeguarding Lead. This training included: a definition of what mental health is; national and local mental health data and statistics; how to recognise a mental health concern; potential reasons why young people may not seek support; what we can do in-school to help and what other help is available. Feedback from our recent all-male student forums provided excellent starting points for discussion amongst colleagues. The College continues to conduct these forums to further probe how our provision can be developed so that it is more appealing to males.

Vaping and nitrous oxide

The safeguarding team continue to be concerned about the clever marketing of vaping and associated paraphernalia. Often disguised as stationery or technology-type casing, we believe that many vapes go undetected by parents/carers. Please remain vigilant and report any shops/vendors where there is concern that vapes are being sold to children. Please also be aware of the [recent news coverage](#) on nitrous oxide as empty cannisters have been found in the local area.

Healthy Relationships Working Party Update

The Healthy Relationships Working Party has spoken to students this half term through an assembly in which they raised awareness of an inclusive culture within the school. They specifically discussed the use of prejudicial language linked to the protected characteristics and how harmful this behaviour is to others irrelevant of whether the intent is to harm or not. Students were asked to reflect on their own and others' behaviour and encouraged to report anything prejudice based to an adult.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please remember that anyone can make a referral to social care with a safeguarding concern. Ideally, this should be done via the county that the referee lives in. If this is unknown, the county of the referrer should be used.

For **Cambridgeshire**, [click here](#)

For **Essex**, [click here](#)

For **Suffolk**, [click here](#)

In an emergency, please dial 999 or to speak to the localised police, dial 101.

Farewell to Mrs Rugg-Gunn

At the end of this term Mrs Rugg-Gunn is leaving the College. We would like to thank her for all of the support she has offered to our students and their families whilst she has worked with us.