



# Chenderit School

## A VISUAL ARTS COLLEGE

Headteacher: Jane Cartwright BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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Our ref: PSHE/arv/website link/mer

December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Chenderit School has a rich and diverse Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme of study which supports all our young people in broadening their self-awareness and their emotional and physical wellbeing. Whilst our core values remain to strive for excellence academically, we recognise that academic achievement is very difficult to isolate from other aspects of young people's lives, especially in a world dominated by social media and 24/7 access to information and news (reliable or fake).

Issues as important and varied as online safety, personal safety, health and wellbeing including drugs and alcohol education, sex and relationships, equality and British Values are all addressed at various points through the PSHE curriculum. We follow our recognised national professional body (the PSHE Association) guidance and material that we use has been approved by them as fit for purpose and of high quality.

The curriculum is ever evolving in response to national and local initiatives and concerns. As part of this curriculum provision, an important and currently very relevant component is our drugs and alcohol awareness provision. We feel that this is particularly relevant as the country and society have seen more changes to drugs and drug related behaviour (e.g. through manufacture, distribution and supply) in recent years.

The Banbury and South Northants area has become a key stopping point on the 'County Lines' drug supply network for gangs from London and Birmingham and there have been numerous high profile drugs and crime issues recently, both locally and nationally. For example, two 16 year olds died recently after taking stronger than expected ecstasy at a Halloween rave in North Wales, and 7 people were convicted in Banbury last summer: drug dealers had moved into the premises of vulnerable adults and begun to use children under the age of 16 to distribute drugs to other local youngsters in the area.

As such, students of different ages are taught the effects and impacts, personal and wider, of drug taking, whether recreationally, socially or as an addict. We look at smoking, alcohol and cannabis as so called 'gateway' drugs in Y7. We look at the effects that drug use has on mental health in Y9. In Y11 we revisit drugs and alcohol and address New Psychoactive Substance abuse.

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Throughout the course of the year, Chenderit School has invested in inviting guest speakers, external agencies and other organisations into school to present to students, either through assemblies, the PSHE curriculum or our Extended Project Day activities . As part of our drugs and alcohol education programme, invited guests include specialist speakers, the police, drug detection dogs, Aquarius (a young people's drug and alcohol awareness support charity), youth and other drug workers, as well as other agencies.

In the near future, the school will be arranging a series of presentation assemblies for our older students that raise awareness and understanding about the impact of drug taking on young people's health and wellbeing. These assemblies will include the use of drug detection dogs. The dogs and their handlers will also perform detection searches of our school environment, passing through student lockers and other communal areas, as well as being present amongst students especially during the assembly presentations. As part of these informative presentations an ex-drug squad police officer as well as representatives from local PCSOs will be in school to explain the law and police 'stop and search' practices. Drug detection dogs may also visit the classes of younger students in school to help build a clearer understanding of their use in society and their training practices. Please be aware that if the dog indicates drugs have been sensed at any point the normal school procedures will be followed according to the behaviour policy on screening and searching students.

<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/assets/documents/Policies/BfL-7-17b.pdf>

A more complete curriculum outline can be found on the school website:

<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/assets/documents/Curriculum/2017-2018/PSHE-Curriculum-2017-2018.pdf> If you have any questions please email

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Yours sincerely



Mr A Vickers  
Head of PE/PSHE