



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'

2 May 2018

Dear Parents

Parental Awareness: Substance Misuse

As a school we always wish to be proactive in our response to concerns that exist in our wider community. One of these concerns currently surrounds the availability of illegal drugs and substances that our young people may come into contact with.

Nationally, although the numbers of young people smoking and drinking has remained static in recent years, there has been an increase in the numbers who have reported trying drugs. In North Yorkshire although the comparable figures are lower, this does not make us complacent as a school in our desire to safeguard our young people from harmful and illegal substances that may be circulating in our locality and communities. We are aware, for example, that cannabis and now drugs such as MDMA and ketamine are more readily available. There have also been worrying instances of young adults coming into rural communities, befriending teenagers and normalising drug use, its purchase and supply.

As a consequence we would like to reassure parents of the action we are taking to address concerns. Our policy is always to tackle any suspicions around drug use amongst our students in an open and robust manner and to work in partnership with parents and the police.

In order to ensure that we keep abreast of the most update information the school liaises regularly with the police and other authorities. As a consequence we are currently in the process of updating our Substance Misuse Policy and in our Life Skills lessons this week are delivering a series of talks with the police to Year 9 through to Year 13 around Drugs and the Law.

Our partnership with parents is vital and we are always hugely grateful when information is shared which assists us to safeguard our students more effectively. We would also encourage parents to have an open dialogue with their children around drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, e-cigarettes and alcohol, which will allow young people to share their worries and concerns.

The following support agencies and websites are available for both young people and parents, these include:

- North Yorkshire HORIZONS - free and confidential drug and alcohol service for young people and families **01723 330730**
- YORK DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE 3 Blossom Street, York, YO24 1AU **Telephone: 01904 464680**
Email: york@changing-lives.org.uk www.changing-lives.org.uk
- FRANK in confidence on 0300 123 6600 or you can chat online between 2-6pm every day
www.talktofrank.com
- <http://www.drugwise.org.uk/>
- <http://mentor-adepis.org>

Finally, if you have any concerns or queries about substance misuse please do not hesitate to contact any member of the school's Care and Guidance Team, who will be happy to help and direct you to further support if necessary.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Sibley
Headteacher

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