

7 November 2014

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9

As I am sure you are aware, the sexual exploitation of children across the UK has been in the news recently, especially in light of the issues in Rotherham, and continues to be a concern.

We know that the best protection we can give to young people is knowledge of the dangers so that they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried.

On Friday 14 November all Year 9 students will be watching "Chelsea's Choice", a drama production which explores the serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. It looks at many other related issues, such as on-line behaviour and consent. The performance is punctuated with discussions by the cast members, exploring the reasons and consequences of the behaviours being shown. At the end there will be the opportunity for students to ask questions.

The production is very powerful and has proven highly successful in raising awareness of these issues amongst over 40,000 young people. We believe that by watching this production our students will gain a better knowledge and understanding of the impact of sexual exploitation on a young person's life, as well as providing them with some skills and knowledge about how to protect themselves from any such abuse.

As Safeguarding Lead for the College, I have already viewed the production and, although it is 'hard hitting', it is not overly graphic and it has been thoughtfully designed to be suitable for its target audience.

This activity in secondary schools is part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling the complex nature of Child Sexual Exploitation and being supported by Derby City Safeguarding Children Board, Derbyshire Police, and all partner agencies in the county. Specialist child protection and safeguarding professionals will be on hand on the day to help students who are worried about exploitation, feel forced into doing something they don't want to, or feel they are at risk.

We hope that this will be a powerful and memorable way to enhance the curriculum and help our young people to stay safe. If you should have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me.

With thanks for your support,

Jane Hornby
Child Protection and Student Support Manager