



N/Sep 2013-July 2014/Let/2engage Jan 2014

17 January 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

On Wednesday, 22nd January 2014 students in Year 10 will be involved in a performance of the 'Risking it All' play and workshop by the 2engage theatre group. This is being run as part of the school's PSHE programme of study and supports the social and moral education of our students.

The West Cheshire Safeguarding Children Board, Cheshire West and Chester Public Health and Cheshire Constabulary/Crimebeat are jointly sponsoring this innovative programme of Theatre in Education about risk taking behaviour by young people: Risking It All. The project was initiated by the Safeguarding Children Board as part of its remit to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation risks.

2engage, a local Community Interest Company based at the University of Chester were commissioned to run workshops with local young people to develop case studies – which highlighted an underlying theme of risk taking behaviour. The developed drama considers three storylines (based on local case studies) of young people impacted by factors like e-safety, substance and alcohol misuse and neglect – all with a focus on risks and consequences. As part of the performance, students are engaged in discussing the vulnerable positions the characters have got into, the risks they face, and the potential consequences.

The drama was performed at Neston High School in July 2013. In response to feedback from students and staff the content has been tweaked to enhance the e-safety storylines as a key theme. The project is intended to support schools to focus on e-safety risks as part of their PSHE curriculum.

Senior staff at Blacon High School have read the script, tutors and pastoral staff have also been briefed, and staff will be available during and after the performance if any students wish to discuss further the issues raised in this performance. There will also be follow up discussion of the play and workshop through tutor group activities.

If you would like further detail on the content and issues covered in this drama please feel free to contact me at school. Although the drama covers some sensitive issues the content offers timely information and guidance on risk taking and how students can stay safe in today's world.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Scoltock
Assistant Headteacher