



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

27th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In recent months the press have reported on a number of knife related incidents around the country and this has been mirrored by a small number of incidents in West Yorkshire and Kirklees. We share the concerns of parents and carers as regards the risk faced by young people who choose to carry knives and the risk to those around them.

Headteachers in every school in Kirklees are united in trying to educate young people as to the dangers and consequences of knife crime, and we are working with West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Youth Offending Service to make sure that schools are a safe place for young people. While this is not an issue that impacts Heckmondwike Grammar School, we fully support the initiative being taken across the area- and this letter represents our commitment to do so.

It is in the interest of every young person's safety to know that the moment they choose to pick up a knife they are putting themselves at risk of injury or arrest. To achieve this, we need your backing by reinforcing the message we are delivering called 'No Knives, Better Lives', our contribution to a Kirklees community safety campaign called Knife Free Kirklees. We will be supporting a media awareness campaign in the coming weeks and this will be reinforced by assemblies and other inputs over this academic year. As an education service, we are adopting a partnership approach with West Yorkshire Police and the Youth Offending Service so that we can deal robustly with young people bringing knives into schools; recognising that young people are learning all of the time that our response will be proportionate, swift and in the interests of the wider school population.

The safety of young people in schools is an emotive topic and we would encourage parents and carers to support education on this issue; your children will achieve more when they feel safe, and this requires a united effort from families, schools and the authorities. We trust you will be supportive of our approach.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bulley
Headteacher

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