

26 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to let you know that the students listened to an assembly yesterday morning from a charity called N3wangle. This charity is supported by Thames Valley Police and delivers a compelling story on knife crime, gangs and drug running and the temptations and dangers facing our children today.

I attach a copy of the knife assembly and ask that you have a look and speak to your child about it. Of particular note is the grooming part, whereby elder children and young adults target young adolescents as drug runners and message delivery agents offering cash and high value gifts in exchange. Our Year 7 students are of the age whereby they are prime targets for such tactics so please do be mindful if you notice any new and expensive items turning up at home without a plausible story behind their origin.

Moses also discussed social media and its potentially dangerous influence over our children. I was saddened that so many students put their hand up to say they had TikTok and Instagram on their phone despite the legal age being 13 and hope that as parents you do keep an eye on what has been watched and seen, given the graphic and unfiltered nature of much of the content on there.

Lastly, my takeaway point from the assembly was that the students should value themselves. They are worth more than the quick fix of cash or trainers, and more than the status that carrying a knife or being part of a gang can offer. I hope they left understanding that the choices they make today can have profound consequences on the trajectory of the rest of their lives.

Yours



Andy Hartley

