



Bassingbourn Village College

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Part of the Anglian Learning Trust

Limited by guarantee registered in

England and Wales with registered no : 07564749

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Mr D Cooper
Principal

Ms V Poulter
Head of School

15th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our PSHE curriculum provision, on Monday 21st January, Year 9 and 10 students will be watching a play called 'County Lines' which is a hard-hitting and innovative Applied Theatre project performed by the company 'Alter Ego' that explores the vulnerability of some adults and young people to conduct or facilitate crime and raises awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation. The play is followed by an actor facilitated post-show talk exploring the issues raised.

In 2017 AlterEgo Creative Solutions were commissioned by Norfolk Constabulary to develop an Applied Theatre play to raise awareness around Child Criminal Exploitation - specifically the strand of the County Lines drug trafficking model that sees vulnerable adults and young people living in regional areas of the UK targeted by organised groups and gangs (that have travelled from more urban city locations) to groom, trick, trap and manipulate them into trafficking drugs and sometimes weapons.

Meet Dex. He's a nice guy. He'll offer you money. He'll offer you drugs. He'll be generous. He'll make you feel important. He'll make you feel part of something. He'll make your life exciting. He'll do whatever it takes to get you working for him and his mates... and when you do...

Meet Dex. He's a scary guy. He'll say you owe him money. He'll make you deal drugs and move packages. He'll blackmail you. He'll be violent. He'll make you feel terrified. He'll turn your life upside down. He'll do whatever it takes to keep you working for him and his mates...

And he's good at it. He knows he'll get you because he knows you'll make bad decisions... bad choices. Dex runs the County Lines.

The play is aimed at raising awareness around

- What is County Lines and how can it affect young people
- The Grooming Process and how it can apply to County Lines
- The similarities and potential crossovers between Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Where to go for help & advice

There is also an opportunity for parents of any year group to watch the production details of which are below.

Community Show: 'County Lines' Theatre Production - South Cambs District Council, Cambourne, Council Chambers- Tuesday 22 January at 5.00pm.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/county-lines-community-performance/>

All the information regarding booking a seat etc is included on the website above. Please note it is **only suitable for children Year 7+**, should parents bring their children.

For adult audiences it also:-

- Raises Awareness of 'The Warning Signs of CCE'
- Raises Awareness of the coercive process that young people may have been through that has resulted in them being criminally exploited – a process that can all too easily make it seem as though they have 'made their own choices'.

I would like to use this opportunity also to reiterate our stance at Bassingbourn on drugs and bringing weapons into school. We take these matters extremely seriously and if any student were found to be in possession of illegal items such as drugs or weapons they would be fixed term excluded. If they were found to be dealing or selling any illegal items then the student would face permanent exclusion from the school. The safety and welfare of all our students is paramount and if at any time parents would like to discuss this or have information they wish to share then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or Mrs Edwards who is my deputy designated safeguarding lead.

Full details of the school's policy can be found in our Expectations for Learning policy on the school website <http://www.bassingbournvc.net/parents/policies/> All year groups will have aspects of this work covered in PSHE throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms V Poulter', is enclosed within a faint, dotted rectangular border.

Ms V Poulter
Head of School