Learning Bulletin

Supporting our school ethos and vision for learning

The focus of this month's bulletin is keeping our children safe in the context of gangs and knife crime.

Our Senior Team recently had some training from Craig Pinkney a Criminologist and Urban Youth Specialist from The National College.   Craig highlighted some important issues that affect us all and we thought that we would share them with you. If anyone is particularly interested or concerned by this issue then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Craig started by highlighting the differences and similarities between Peer Groups, Gangs and Organised Crime Groups and looked at some of the reasons why young people might join a gang. This reasons included, among others, a lack of positive role models, the need to belong, feeling scared and wanting to feel protected.

Most importantly for us, Craig covered what schools can do in order to help their young people feel safe.

Some of the points we are addressing already and others we are working to put in place:

1. **Helping students get to and from school safely**. A number of the students already get taxis in to and home from school. We always talk to the students about their journeys and if necessary allow them to leave a few minutes early/stay on site for a few extra minutes to make a particular train or bus so they are not on the street for longer than they need to be.

2. **Liaison Officers/Learning Mentors** We are looking at putting in place staff with a reduced teaching timetable, who the students can relate to and who are able to assist in lessons/offer pastoral support.

3. **Training and Awareness** The training we received will be rolled out to all staff and updated regularly

4. **Parental Support** https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/behaviour/gangs/

   https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/gangs-and-gang-crime-advice-parents

5. **Building Resilience** https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Exploitation%20Toolkit.pdf

6. **Educate, Safeguard and Support**