



The Arnewood School

11-19 Academy

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

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Dear Parent/Carer

Joining forces to keep our young people safe

As parents, carers and teachers we all want the same for our children – and that is for them to be safeguarded and fully prepared for adult life.

Young people today face many new pressures that were not such an issue when we were young. One area of concern is access to drugs and the range of substances now available.

We are determined to do our bit to not only educate your children to the harms of drug abuse but also make access to these substances far more difficult while young people are in our care.

That is why we, a 13-strong group of New Forest headteachers, have joined forces on drug prevention and formed a new partnership called **Hampshire Safe**.

We believe that by working together we can collectively not only raise awareness of the impact of substance misuse but also put measures in place to stop it from happening at our schools and colleges.

Over the next few weeks and months we shall be working with students to raise further their awareness of the impact of substance misuse.

We will also be offering parents/carers the opportunity to receive up-to-date information, using resources approved by Hampshire Police. Headteachers and principals across the New Forest and Waterside have also agreed with their governing bodies a common strategy on addressing substance misuse. This is available on your school or college's website.



As part of this anti-drug strategy, drug detection dogs will periodically be deployed with no notice in local secondary schools, colleges and pupil referral units to ensure our premises are drugs free.

We wish to reassure you that the dogs will be deployed to search a whole building and not individuals. However, during their search the dogs may detect drugs on students or in property belonging to students. Should that happen, anyone suspected to be in possession of illegal substances may be searched. Police assistance will be provided where necessary and of course parents/carers would be informed at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, students and families affected would be signposted to counselling and family support services. Any student found in possession of illegal substances could be at risk of exclusion or face prosecution.

We hope you will support us as schools and colleges that are taking a strong stance against substance abuse.

Our schools and colleges are safe places and we will do everything we can to maintain this. Above all, we shall seek to educate our young people about the dangers of drugs, because prevention is always the best policy.

You can assist us and the police in keeping our community safe by reporting any suspicious local activity to Hampshire Police by calling 101.

Thank you for supporting this New Forest-wide initiative.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact your school's headteacher or college vice-principal.

For your information, the 13 schools and colleges working together are:

Noadswood School, Ringwood School, New Forest Academy, The Arnewood School, The Burgate School, Totton College, Brockenhurst College, Eaglewood School, Applemore College, Priestlands School, Greenwood School, Testwood School and Hounslow School.

Yours faithfully

N. M. Pressnell

N Pressnell
Headteacher

