

14th November 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: NHS Research Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England

The NHS and the Department of Health and Social Care are interested in finding out about smoking, drinking and drug taking amongst young people.

Ipsos MORI, an independent research agency, has been commissioned by NHS Digital to undertake this important national survey. The Arnewood School has been asked to be part of this year's survey, which will involve one tutor group from Years 7, 9 and 10. Your son/daughter's tutor group has been selected as one of the tutor groups. The survey will involve your son/daughter being asked to complete a questionnaire in one single class period along with the other members of the tutor group. The survey will take place during the morning of Tuesday 27th November 2018.

The Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey has been running since 1982 and will collect information on the attitudes and experiences of more than 10,000 secondary school pupils this year. The research contributes to national statistics which are used by government departments and local authorities to inform policy and plan services to help improve young people's lives. More information about the purpose of the survey, how the data is used and what will happen to the survey findings can be found at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/areas-of-interest/publichealth/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england>.

Ipsos MORI will store your son/daughter's information securely and keep it confidential and only share it with authorised individuals at NHS Digital. Your son/daughter will not be required to provide their name on the questionnaire. Their answers will be combined with more than 10,000 other people's answers and only anonymous data will be reported. The results will be presented in statistical reports including breakdowns by age, gender and ethnicity in a way in which no individual child or school can be identified. This data file will be added to the UK Data Service, which is a website that holds data for hundreds of the UK's most important research studies. Researchers will be able to look at the data but they will not be able to identify which schools or students have taken part in the study. Your son/daughter's involvement in this project will help to ensure the survey produces a nationally representative sample; and I hope you have no objections to them taking part in this important survey.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Gough
Senior Teacher

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