

18 January 2019

Letter to All Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re 'Run, hide, tell'

As you are aware we have a duty of care to all of our pupils and through our assemblies and PSHEe programme we aim to help them develop the life skills that will enable them to stay safe in a variety of different situations.

We regularly hold fire drills to ensure we can evacuate the school in the event of an emergency and, in preparation for some school trips, we have begun to practice safety procedures based on the government guidance 'Run, hide, tell'.

The School has a critical incident management plan. In 2016-17 we consulted with and received training from the Gloucestershire Constabulary and liaised with our neighbours Cirencester College and The Royal Agricultural University. In 2017-18 we worked with our staff and pupils in the school at that time to implement our critical incident plans and we now need to go through the same process now with our current Year 7 pupils.

Therefore, on Friday 25 January 2019 Miss Brace, Assistant Head, will be leading a Year 7 assembly. She will be sharing two key messages; how to stay safe in crowded places and what to do in a lockdown drill. Our aim will be to alert rather than alarm our pupils.

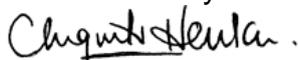
We will be using the same resources we used in 2017-18 which were circulated to schools as a part of the launch of Phase II of ACT for Youth campaign by Counter Terrorism Policing. These are designed to help educate young people on how to stay safe in the rare event of a firearms or weapon attack. These are age appropriate. However, to avoid any feelings of panic or distress, you may wish to follow the link and show your son/daughter the short animated film 'What to do in a weapons attack' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmYmLg-iQjc>) and talk to him/her about its content before we show it in our assembly.

In the week beginning Monday 28 January 2019 we plan to practice our lockdown drill with Year 7 and we will be talking to our pupils about how we will manage this. This will require their cooperation. While we recognise incidents requiring this type of response are extremely rare we feel it is important that our pupils are given the skills to cope in dramatic situations.

Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Brace at the school (C.Brace@deerparkschool.net) should you have any concerns about our plans.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Chiquita Henson
Headteacher