



HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

01<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Drugs Awareness and Education

As part of our endeavour to inform and educate our students about the dangers of drug misuse, we have embarked upon providing a Drugs Awareness programme, initially to KS4 but in the longer term to KS3 as well. The drug industry is sophisticated and complicated. Students, to avoid being entrapped, have to be given up-to-date, factual information. GMS works in partnership with Thames Valley Police and a company that specialises in Drug Detection Dogs to fulfil our commitment.

Teenage experimentation with a range of substances is nothing new. It is, however, incumbent upon us as educators to make sure that our students understand the short-term and long-term risks associated with drug misuse. Just as importantly, where to turn for help if affected or in difficulty. It is our shared view that the drug problem is rarely confined to any one organisation or area: it is very much a nationwide issue.

In recent years, organised criminal gangs have increasingly targeted areas outside cities through a network of dealers and distributors in illegal operations, commonly known as County Lines. This involves the targeting and grooming of children and young people who become runners for gangs in return for cash, gifts and drugs. It can be incredibly difficult for those caught up in these networks to escape. Our Drugs Awareness programme includes an informative talk on County Lines. You can find out more about County Lines by watching an informative BBC Documentary, which can be accessed here: [Drugsland: Going Country](#)

Our students benefit from our close working partnership with Thames Valley Police and Drug Detection Dogs. Our new Drugs Awareness programme, delivered by these two professional bodies, will involve educational talks about the issues of drug misuse, County Lines and what young people need to know to stay safe.

We hope that you are reassured by this initiative; as always, we appreciate your support in our endeavour to crackdown on drug use and its potential risk of harm to our children. Each of us has a part to play in ensuring every child and young person is kept safe throughout their educational years and this can best be achieved by working collaboratively and with expert support.

Finally, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Mr N Maguire**  
Deputy Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead