



Dear Parents and Carers,

29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

I hope that you had a good Easter, we have enjoyed welcoming our students back after the holidays and have been straight back in to hard work. Year 11 exams are underway now with Art, Photography, Design and Languages in the next fortnight, before the first written exam on May 14th.

This week we welcomed a drama group called Alter Ego in to our school. They performed for students in Years 8 and 9 and the theme was County Lines Drugs issues. This is an issue that we are incredibly heightened about and remain vigilant around some very real concerns in our area. The County Lines model involves dealers from big cities setting up offshoots of their work into the Counties. Using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'County line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money. They will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

We are working in a multi agency approach to raise awareness, and the Local Authority and Police are coordinating much of the work with us. Later this term, in collaboration with Samuel Ward Academy we will be holding 'Criminal Exploitation, Gangs and County Lines' awareness raising workshops for Parents and Carers. Further details of this will follow. In the meantime if you need further information please visit the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board website <http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/parents-and-carers/gangs/>. In addition, the youtube video on 'What is County Lines?' by the University of Greenwich is also very informative: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lLaguFXHr4>. If you have any concerns at all about your child please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sadly over the holidays our school and others in the area were subject to some antisocial behaviour with smashed windows and electrical items being stolen. Sometimes children think it is appropriate for them to access school site during holiday times, and could be exposed or get involved in this unsafe and damaging behaviour, please can I ask you to make sure that your children do not come on to school site in these times at evenings or weekends when they are not supervised.

To end on a lighter and more positive note, it has been fabulous to see the growing momentum of an initiative started by our own Mr Mason. He has started a group that are working across Haverhill to reduce litter in public areas. There is a facebook page set up Keep Haverhill Tidy, and it has been fantastic to see so many of our families getting involved, we are proud of our community and we have an upcoming community day in July where we will be supporting projects such as this initiative.

We look forward to seeing Year 7 parents on Thursday for their parents evening, these events have been very positive this year and very well attended, thank you for your ongoing support.

As always if you would like to contact me please do so on [VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk) or through my PA, Mrs Mitchell on [GMitchell@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:GMitchell@castlemanor.org.uk) or by calling the school.

Vanessa Whitcombe  
Headteacher

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.

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