

ISSUE 6 • NOVEMBER 2023

wqe | Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



PREVENT YOUNG LEADERS

We have launched our Prevent Young Leaders programme for this academic year. On 27th October, we took a group of WQE students to visit the National Holocaust Centre, with a focus on learning about protection against extremist ideology. We were joined by students and staff from Leicester College and the Leicester Prevent Coordinator, Ben Smith. The visit was extremely important as the students begin their roles as Prevent Young Leaders, with many of them asking thought-provoking questions.



Following on from the trip, on 7th November, Ben Smith visited the College, alongside the East Midlands Prevent Coordinator, Sam Slack, to participate in a Q&A session with our Prevent Young Leaders. Students were very engaged, confident and open in their discussions. It was incredibly positive, sometimes challenging, and valuable for the students, staff and for the Prevent colleagues.



UPCOMING PREVENT EVENTS:

W/C 04/12/2023 - FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

W/C 11/12/2023 - RAY DOUGLAS VISITS

W/C 15/01/2024 - FOCUS GROUPS WITH EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS

07/02/2024 - WHOLE COLLEGE PREVENT MASTERCLASS WITH LIVE EXTERNAL SPEAKERS



GAZA-ISRAEL CONFLICT

At WQE College, we are privileged to have an extremely diverse student community. We know that there are students, families and groups of people in our community that will be both directly and indirectly impacted by the conflict. Many of our community members will also be watching and listening to the harrowing media reports. We must ensure that we support each other and use all support mechanisms available.

As a college, we care, and we will:

- Advocate expressing concern about this issue in a way that is civil and respectful to all members of our community
- Reflect on how ordinary people are affected by violence in the region
- Appreciate that individual members of our college community may be impacted in many ways by the conflict

Based on information from the DfE and the Police, the WQE Safeguarding Team would like to offer the following advice and guidance:

Encourage and support dialogue on the issues and people's different perspectives of what is happening (or what they perceive is happening)

Ensure that young people are clear on the support available to them if they are affected or if they need to share specific concerns

The online space will almost certainly drive much discussion and young people should be very alert to the likelihood that a lot of posting may be driven by AI and not real people, and that many posts may not be what they represent. There is a vital need to support this online awareness. We are aware that some young people are watching events via 'live streaming' which may be extremely distressing.

It is advisable to remind young people to be mindful of information that they share with others online. The Malicious Communications Act 1988 sets out the offence of sending electronic communication which conveys a grossly offensive message, threat or information which is false and known to be false by the sender.

[CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS HELPFUL RESOURCES](#)



[CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS HELPFUL RESOURCES](#)



[CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS HELPFUL RESOURCES](#)



WQE College Respects and Listens

Many young people will have a strong personal interest in these issues, and we are aware that this may lead to political activity by some students. The College will work to ensure that any political expression by students is done sensitively, avoiding disruption and feelings of intimidation, or targeting for other students and staff. The College will also make every effort to ensure that this activity does not extend to discriminatory bullying or involve the expression of anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, or other discriminatory views. If this does happen, we will follow our Safeguarding Young People Policy and Student Guidance and Intervention Policy.

When should you be concerned?

Lawful non-violent protest or activism is not illegal, and we would not expect it to be reported to the police. Holding legitimate political views is not an indicator for extremism provided they are not expressed or furthered by statements, deeds or actions which result in harassment, intimidation, or threats of violence against individuals or society itself. Encouragement of terrorism, including glorifying the commission or preparation of acts of terrorism, fundraising for the purposes of terrorism, and inviting support for a proscribed terrorist organisation, are all criminal offences. Hamas and Hizballah are proscribed terrorist organisations in the UK.

COUNTY LINES

A VIOLENT AND EXPLOITATIVE FORM OF DRUG DISTRIBUTION. A COMMON FEATURE OF COUNTY LINES IS THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS WHO ARE INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER AND/OR STORE DRUGS, AND ASSOCIATED MONEY OR WEAPONS TO DEALERS OR DRUG USERS, LOCALLY OR IN OTHER COUNTIES.



SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR
- NEW, UNEXPLAINED POSSESSIONS
- CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIPS
- UNEXPLAINED INJURIES



SCAN THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO ACCESS THE FULL HOME OFFICE GUIDANCE

WHO IS VULNERABLE TO COUNTY LINES EXPLOITATION?

Age: 15-17 year olds make up the majority of vulnerable people involved in county lines.

Sex/Gender: people of all genders can be exploited. Women/girls may be exploited to perform different roles.

Ethnicity: people from all ethnicities and nationalities are targeted and demographics of victims vary across England and Wales.

Location: county lines are widespread nationally, in rural and urban areas, and while they can involve the movement of drugs across county borders from one area of the UK to another, some lines supply the drugs market locally, within the same town, city or county in which they originate. County lines grooming can take place in a range of settings, including in homes, public spaces, schools and universities, prisons and youth offender institutions, as well as online.

ITP CORP

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO READ MORE

WHAT IS IT?

A new pyramid/ponzi scheme that promises big money returns by investing in an AI trading app.

WHAT IS THE CONCERN?

After putting money into the site/app, people struggle to withdraw it.

WHO IS THE TARGET?

It appears to target communities. Referring the site to a family member/friend offers monetary rewards, however the rewards never seem to come to fruition.



ONLINE SAFETY ACT

New laws take a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choice over what they see online



The Act places legal responsibility on tech companies to prevent and rapidly remove illegal content, e.g. terrorism and revenge porn

They have also been instructed to stop children seeing harmful material such as bullying and content promoting self-harm and eating disorders.



If they fail to comply with the rules, they will face significant fines that could reach billions of pounds, and if they don't take steps required by Ofcom to protect children, their bosses could even face prison.



SCAN THE QR
CODE OR [CLICK
HERE FOR
MORE INFO](#)

UPDATE - NITROUS OXIDE

ALSO KNOWN AS - BALLOONS/CHARGERS/HIPPIE
CRACK/LAUGHING GAS/NOS/NOZ/WHIPPITS

As of 8th November 2023, nitrous oxide is now a **Class C** drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, therefore meaning it is **illegal**. Repeat serious users of nitrous oxide could face up to 2 years in prison and dealers up to 14 years. Possession of nitrous oxide, where a person intends to wrongfully inhale it 'to get high', will be an offence.



If you are worried about someone you know using nitrous oxide, or think a member of the WQE community has it in their possession on campus, please contact the Safeguarding Team. For more information about nitrous oxide and its risks, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code on the left.

