



Dear Parents/Carers

Sussex Police Prevention Youth Officers are aiming to attend all secondary schools in the Adur & Worthing area to speak with students and staff around the risks of knife crime and child exploitation.

We are writing to you to make you aware of the work we are carrying out to educate young people across West Sussex.

On Wednesday 14th October we will be holding a workshop at Davison CE High School for Girls for Year 9 students. Each class will have a 30 minute workshop.

Our main objectives are to:

- Raise awareness around the risks and laws associated with carrying a knife.
- Spot the signs of exploitation in young people.
- Help young people to build healthy relationships and ensure they know how to keep safe.
- Challenge stereotypes, myths and fears that are portrayed through the media.

The #kNOWknives project focuses on three main areas:

- Educating young people on the risks and consequences of knife crime, and how to look after their own personal safety.
- The issues of knives and other offensive weapons that are specific to issues in local schools and communities.
- Working with parents, carers and professionals to understand the dangers and risks surrounding knife crime and to provide information and strategies to discuss this with their children.

As part of the workshops, Sussex Police is bringing in a knife arch in to raise awareness and educate youths of the dangers of carrying a knife. The knife arch is not an enforcement tool and will act as a talking point to reassure youths on what Sussex Police can do to help keep people safe.

The workshops will also provide an opportunity for students to talk to us if they have any concerns about knife crime, as well as for us to signpost if necessary to relevant agencies that can offer support and guidance.

If you have any questions – please contact us on 101 or via the Sussex Police web site.

We look forward to working with you and your child over the next academic year.

For further information on knife crime and the support services available, please see the below links and contacts.

- **Childline** – 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- **#knifefree** - www.knifefree.co.uk
- **Fearless (crime stoppers for young people)** – www.fearless.org - for advice and/or anonymously report a crime
- **Victim support** – www.victimsupport.org.uk - support service for victims of crime
- **kNOWknives** - Facebook page
- **Sussex Police** – <https://www.sussex.police.uk/>
To report a crime or incident you can report online or call 101 in a non-emergency, or call 999 in an emergency.

Kind regards

Sussex Police