

Dear Parent / Carer,

To help support our young people in recognising the dangers and raising knife crime awareness we are pleased to have been offered the opportunity to have a 'knife arch' at the Academy. The knife arch will be onsite on Thursday 23rd and 24th Friday May on the Academy gate for students to experience and will be supervised by Sergeant Jackson our Safer Schools officer.

This is a device that detects metal and is widely recognised as an effective deterrent in combating knife crime. We will be working in partnership with West Yorkshire Police as part of Operation Sceptre which is a national campaign whose aim is to raise awareness of knife crime, how to tackle, reduce and prevent it.

Unfortunately, we are sure that like us you will be aware of the now all too regular features that appear in national and local news as our young people become increasingly under threat from individuals carrying knives. This initiative is the Academy's proactive approach to this issue as it aims to open up discussion, provide our young people with information on how to keep themselves safe and to reduce their risk of harm. By educating our students on these dangers and offering early intervention with this programme, we feel that it can play an essential part in helping them to protect themselves from threat.

The programme will offer information on:

- An understanding of the current knife crime situation locally and nationally.
- The law and knife carrying/usage.
- The risks involved in carrying a knife.
- The effects of knife crime on individuals and communities.
- How to be safer and avoid dangerous situation.

Everyone can make a difference in the fight against knife crime. Therefore, it is really important that parents, carers and teachers continue to have conversations about knife crime with children and young people to ensure that learning on this issue is embedded and that students develop a clear understanding of the risks and consequences.

We know that the overwhelming majority of our young people will never be affected by knife crime but a conversation with your child will help us collectively to make a difference.

Outwood Academy Hemsworth, along with West Yorkshire Police would like to thank you for your continued support with this very important message. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

PS Jackson