



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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22 June 2022

Dear Parents

At the end of May we circulated a letter from PCSO Phil Wright concerning 'County Lines' matters such as criminal and sexual exploitation in the Ripon area. This was followed up with a series of assemblies delivered by PCSO Wright to reinforce the message about the dangers of such activities.

Further to that, we have been made aware of a number of recent incidents, in and around Ripon, which have involved the probable use of drink and drugs as well as violence – in some cases quite serious - directed towards individuals within our community. Whilst these are police matters, for which we as a school are not directly involved, I would like to reiterate the point about the dangers which might affect young people when beyond direct parental supervision. In addition to this, we are aware of several incidents of criminal and sexual exploitation in the Ripon area which have resulted from the possession of images taken using mobile phones.

While such incidents can happen anywhere, certain areas in Ripon have been problematic, particularly on an evening, such as the bus station, skateboard park, College Lawns [where groups of young people often congregate], the BP service station and stretches along the river banks - particularly around the North Bridge area. At this time of the year with the weather fair, and with examinations for Year 11 ending on Thursday, the river bank area is a popular spot for groups of young people to meet, but also where problems have occurred.

Whilst on the one hand it is important to emphasise the relative safety of living in and around Ripon, giving our children the freedom to meet and associate outside of school not under the gaze of parents, it is also worth cautioning them to the dangers that do exist in an effort to ward against a sense of complacency and naivety, and giving them the strategies to deal with a possible dangerous situation. It is a difficult balance to strike.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster