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*Creating
opportunities for
everyone*

Friday 26th February 2021

Re: Year 6 Workshop on Gang Exploitation, Drugs & Knives

On Wednesday 10th March we have Excelsior Safeguarding coming in to deliver a workshop to Year 6 called 'Josh's Story' which focuses on understanding the risks around grooming and gang culture before they go to secondary school. This includes support and information on saying no to gangs, drugs, knives and violence. The funding has been obtained via the Kent Police Crime Commissioner and supported by Ashford Council and they are in their third year of delivering these workshops around Kent.

You may have heard in the press about 'County Lines Gangs' which affects many of Kent's larger towns and we take our responsibility to educate our older children on how to protect themselves from exploitation seriously. This is an ongoing local issue that we feel the children need awareness of as they progress on to secondary school and this is the second year they have delivered a workshop at Phoenix Community Primary School.

During the workshop they will look into **Josh's story** which is an education package developed to be age appropriate and ensures children are provided with the right tools and awareness to prevent being caught up in group violence and drug related activity. The information will help our children stay safe while encouraging them to become confident and self-assured young people in preparation for secondary education.

Excelsior Safeguarding team has over thirty years experience within law enforcement agencies and delivering safeguarding training for children throughout Kent.

I firmly believe that our older pupils need the correct information to be able to keep themselves safe in the modern world, however if any parent is concerned please come and speak to us as we always organise education in these areas with the agreement of parents. This will be one part of our safeguarding awareness training for pupils. If Covid protocols allow we will also be arranging a visit from our PCSO and are already working with another organisation, Uprising, on building resilience and developing/choosing the right friends.

Please do contact me if you want further information. Should you not want your child taking part in this workshop, please let me know by the 8th March at the latest.

Yours sincerely

Mr Johnson, Headteacher

