

**Walsall NPU**

West Midlands Police Headquarters
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Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer/Student

Emergency Tel: 999
Non emergency: 101
Webchat: <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/>

Our Reference: ASB

Date: 14/10/2022

West Midlands Police are working with all of the local schools to raise awareness around personal safety and anti-social behaviour especially with the darker nights fast approaching. It is important that young people are made aware of or reminded of what is expected of them in terms of behaviour.

West Midlands Police have a two-way information sharing agreement in place with Schools. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the school, we would also like to remind students about the following: -

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others. What may seem fun to you could be having a negative affect on an individual, group or premises and could be an illegal act that has criminal consequences.
Halloween in particular can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Make use of 'My Location' apps on phones or share your intended locations with parents/guardians. This allows people to know where you are for safety reasons and not to check up on you.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death.
 - With Bonfire night approaching West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you in trouble with the Police and can lead to a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** this is something to seriously consider because if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime under joint enterprise – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours Faithfully,

Phil Dolby

Chief Superintendent – Walsall NPU (West Midlands Police)

