



Church Road, Lydney
Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ
T: 01594 843202
F: 01594 842025
E: info@thedeacademy.org
www.thedeacademy.org

Hannah Rowlands: Headteacher

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Dear parent/carer,

Through our Personal Development Curriculum, we tackle and educate our students on many challenging and important issues. We know that our young people face multiple sources of risk from many avenues (including social media) and that the best protection we can give to them is to provide knowledge and empower them to protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go to for help if needed.

As part of our PD curriculum, we are presenting an interactive play to all our Year 9 pupils which will tackle the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation on Thursday 16th October. The play is called Chelsea's Story and will provide an opportunity for interaction with the actors helping pupils to see the choices the characters made and how they might have chosen differently. We will provide an information sheet which has been designed with input from young people to all pupils on where to go if they are worried about exploitation, feel forced into doing something they don't want to, or if they feel they are at risk. School staff will also be on hand to help with questions.

This activity in secondary schools is part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling the complex nature of Child Sexual Exploitation and being supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and all Partner Agencies in the county. The play has, over the last thirteen years, been presented to over 117,000 year 8 pupils across the county and was extremely successful.

We hope that this will be a powerful and memorable way to enhance the PSHE curriculum and help our young people to stay safe.

Best wishes,

Natasha Porter

Subject Lead for Personal Development



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CHELSEA'S STORY

AlterEgo's 'Chelsea's Story' is an Applied Theatre Production (based on real stories) that has proven highly effective in raising awareness around Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, The 'Grooming' Process, Healthy Relationships & Safe Internet Use.

The play tells the story of a group of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea. Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends & family, was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a nice car, had his own flat & treated Chelsea like an adult. Unfortunately, Gary was not what he seemed to be. Chelsea's Story is played out & examined by the three students who, along with their teacher, attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) – WHAT IS IT?

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of Child Abuse. It occurs when a young person (under the age of 18 – male or female) is tricked, trapped or manipulated into participating in sexual activity in return for money, gifts, drugs, alcohol or maybe just a little bit of attention. Sometimes it is as a result of a direct threat against the young person, their friends or family. The people that do this are so manipulative that often the young people that are being targeted will not recognise what is happening to them.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

What are some of the signs of a Healthy Relationship?

- Respect
- Honesty
- Trust
- Communication
- Equality
- Separate Identities

What are some of the signs on an Unhealthy Relationship?

- Verbal, Physical, Emotional or Sexual Abuse/Violence
- Controlling Behaviour
- No Respect
- No Honesty
- No Trust
- No Communication
- No Equality
- No Separate Identities

SAFE INTERNET USE

What can you do to help keep yourself & your information safe online?

- **Don't** give out personal information
- **Check** that you have high privacy settings
- **Don't** meet up with people that you've only chatted to online
- **Don't** assume that whoever you are chatting to is necessarily telling you the truth
- **Never** text, email or post risky images of yourself or others. Once you've sent it you have no control over what happens to it
- **Don't** add people that you don't know (even if you have a mutual friend)
- **Tell** someone if you receive risky or abusive messages or comments