

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the Metropolitan Police prevention response to recent knife crime in the wider community, we work closely with our Safer Schools Officer PC Gaster to accommodate the use of knife wandering at The Harefield Academy periodically throughout the academic year.

Naturally the school fully supports the Metropolitan Police in preventing knife crime and we have always educated our students about the importance of not carrying weapons and the potential impact it can have on their future.

As part of a joint partnership with our local school liaison officer PC Gaster it is our priority to ensure that we safeguard our students and staff on their journey to and from school and whilst within the school grounds.

Please be assured that knife wandering checks are not triggered as a reaction to a particular incident, but are common practice in secondary schools as a safeguarding procedure and preventative measure recommended by the Metropolitan Police.

Students and parents/carers will not be informed of what day(s) knife wandering is to be used.

Any student carrying a knife or illegal weapons would be arrested for doing so, and as per the Ladder of Consequence may face permanent exclusion from The Academy. Please be advised that as well as illegal items we will confiscate any contraband that a student is found in possession of.

If the school had not consented to knife wandering, the police would carry out the process outside the school. I am sure you will agree that this procedure is best carried out within the privacy of the school and with the support of senior staff.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Barrett'.

Mrs K Barrett
Designated Safeguarding Lead