



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Staffordshire

Our reference PJT/KB/pf
8 February 2010

Parent Letter No 84 (All students)

Wolgarston Working With



Staffordshire
P O L I C E

Dear Parent / Carer

DRUGS EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Drugs misuse is a major concern for many parents and, although the majority of young people do not engage in any such activity, it is our responsibility to deal with issues relating to the minority appropriately.

Unfortunately, Staffordshire schools reflect the communities they serve and are not totally devoid of drug activity. Therefore, it would be quite wrong of us not to do all within our power to ensure a safe educational environment for all our students. It is for this reason that Wolgarston High School is working in close partnership with Staffordshire Police to tackle this important and sometimes emotive issue.

Wolgarston has agreed that a dog will visit the school at any time in an attempt to deter that minority of young people from potentially becoming involved in drugs and in order to maintain the safe learning environment of the school.

The dog will visit classrooms and screen the area around students and indicate to the handler whether or not there is evidence to suggest that a particular individual or individuals may have come into contact with illegal substances. It is trained only for this purpose and is not aggressive in any way. Everyone in its presence is completely safe and it is accompanied by a handler at all times.

The dog has been successfully used in other Staffordshire schools within the community and at Wolgarston on two previous occasions. I am delighted that, on both visits, the screening process found Wolgarston to be 'drug-free'.

Cont'd overleaf ...

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If, at any time during the screening of students, a positive indication is made, then the Police will exercise their legal powers to conduct a search. If, in the unfortunate scenario that drugs are found, the situation will be dealt with the Police in the appropriate manner; ie parents will be contacted and involved.

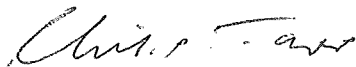
Needless to say, any person found in possession of drugs on school premises would be in breach of Wolgarston's Behaviour Policy and would be subject to sanctions imposed by the school.

In instances where a positive indication is made but no illegal substances are found, we will still inform parents.

All searches will be logged and recorded in line with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact our Family and Student Services Centre on (01785) 788414.

Yours sincerely



Philip J Tapp
Headteacher