



CHELTENHAM AREA SECONDARY HEADS ASSOCIATION

Joint letter to parents regarding concerns about the availability of drugs in Cheltenham from the Gloucestershire Police and the headteachers of Cheltenham's secondary schools

March 2019

Dear Parents,

Recently the police have contacted Cheltenham's secondary schools to warn about the activity of groups attempting to distribute drugs in the town. The police have seen an increase in cases relating specifically to MDMA (ecstasy) which is available at prices that many young people can easily afford.

We would urge you to be aware of the risks around the availability of drugs and urge vigilance on your part. Before Christmas a 17 year old boy died in South Wales after suffering an adverse reaction.

Each of our schools has a dedicated programme of drugs education and we remain committed jointly to ensuring that our young people are safe and well informed about the dangers of drugs. As a group of schools we continue to work closely with the police to educate people about the risks and to support them in their efforts to apprehend the people who would put lives at risk.

We are hoping that this joint letter will raise awareness of the problem so that parents are fully informed. We all need to work closely together to make sure that no family falls prey to the sort of tragedy that occurred in Wales and, all too frequently, in other parts of the country.

The Cheltenham heads are sending this letter out to the parents of every student in their school. If you have any particular concerns then please contact the police or your child's school. You can also find out more information about drugs at: <https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Yours sincerely,

Inspector John Turner, Gloucestershire Constabulary

Neil Hall, Headteacher Winchcombe School and Chairman of Cheltenham Area Secondary Heads

Dermot McNiffe, Headteacher All Saints Academy

Dominic Burke, Headteacher Balcarras

Gareth Burton, Headteacher Bournside School

Sam Stocken, Headteacher Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Alternative Provision School

Alwyn Richards, Headteacher Cleeve School

Will Morgan, Headteacher Cotswold School

Russel Ellicot, Headteacher Pate's Grammar School

Richard Gilpin, Headteacher Pittville School