

12th December 2022



**Yardleys
School**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY CHRISTMAS REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With Christmas fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour during the festive break from school. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students; and provide additional support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Personal safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep Christmas gifts and other valuables such as smartphones out of public view whenever possible, especially during your journey to and from school, when you return in the New Year. Register your valuables at www.immobilise.com to improve the chances of getting them back if they are lost or stolen.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour, 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! Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about how your actions and behaviour affects others.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying knives or other weapons could get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel/job prospects. Those who carry knives are 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.
- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e-scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime, even if you weren't the one directly responsible.
- **Bring it on Brum:** Are returning once again for a winter programme w/c Monday 19th December 2022. Look out for a letter from school that includes your Bring it on Brum/HAF/FSM code, as you'll need this to book places. Further programme information is available via: [Bring it on Brum! – Holiday Activities and Food](#)

Yours faithfully,

Neil Warner
Headteacher
Yardleys School

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent
East Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Richard North
Chief Superintendent
West Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Crime Prevention Advice for Educational Sites



Follow this simple checklist when you are open or closed for business to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime:

- Be extra vigilant over the holiday period.
- Remember to follow your school's security guidelines.
- Keep all keys out of sight.
- When you close for any holiday, lock away everything you can.
- Leave no unnecessary cash on the premises.
- Close and lock internal and external doors.
- Set all security alarms.
- Ensure that your CCTV system is fully working.
- Check all windows are closed and valuable property is secured from view.
- Ensure any school vehicles are securely parked and the keys securely locked away.
- Do you need someone to call in and move the post or any deliveries?
- Ensure you leave no rubbish outside your premises that can be used to start fires.
- Remove, or secure, anything from outside that might help a criminal to break in, such as benches, bins, garden tools, ladders.
- Are all your items of IT property marked?
- Do you have an asset list of all your items, including serial numbers?

If you see something suspicious, act upon it, do not ignore it.

In an emergency call 999.