



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL IN READING

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Knife Arches – Police Visit

I write to inform you that we were fortunate enough to have been offered the opportunity by Thames Valley Police to have Knife Arches used at the school for spot checks today. Students were randomly selected on their way into school; some students even opting to be checked!

This is an opportunity that is being offered to all schools in Reading, with many schools seeing the benefit of this. This opportunity also fits into a wider strategy that looks to educate young people surrounding the risks and consequences of knife crime. Reassuringly, there were no knives found.

As you know from my previous letter with regards to the drugs dogs, Thames Valley Police are trying to be more proactive in their approach with young people, so that they can act in a preventative manner, as opposed to 'cure', when this can often be too late.

Thames Valley Police have offered a number of interventions to combat ongoing problems we face in this society; all of which I am sure you are aware of via the news.

Thames Valley Police are aiming to build positive relationships with young people and have only last week visited the school to sit and have lunch with the students, and offered the opportunity for open conversation to both staff and pupils at the school. This was very well received by all, with students excited to see the police and share their stories and concerns.

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading prides itself on our approach to safeguarding and protecting our young people and their families. Should you wish to read further about the current knife concerns and initiatives to combat the threat of knives in Reading, please visit:

Reading Chronicle:

<https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/17547304.thames-valley-police-launched-operation-sceptre-as-part-of-national-knife-crime-week/>

Police and Crime Commissioner:

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/performance-overview/reducing-reoffending/gangs-and-knife-crime/>

Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-launches-anti-knife-crime-campaign>

Should you need any further advice, or wish to discuss this in more detail, please contact your child's Head of Year via the school office.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Burns
Assistant Headteacher