

7 February 2020

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. Every third Student entering the school was selected for this process; 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.

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. This process was incredibly powerful last year, building positive relationships with the police, and showing a presence within the community. 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.

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

Senior Assistant Headteacher