

February 2023

Dear NCS Families,

Pilot Identity Programme

The Community Safety Team at Warwickshire County Council have been working with a number of schools over the last two years to develop programmes that provide students with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions that help keep themselves and their friends safe. Nicholas Chamberlaine School has been at the forefront of this work.

There is one topic that students have raised; Identity and understanding how to shape your Identity. The journey from adolescence into adulthood and what determines that journey, has never been more relevant for young people, particularly in the ages of 12- 16. The legacy of the Pandemic, the influence of social media, how our environment impacts on career choices and even how political decisions affect young people; all of these areas have been raised as influencing "Identity" in adolescence.

Our Identity Programme is based on the 5 areas of Identity:

- **Your values** - the personal values that each of us hold and which we hold in others. We call this your moral bar and we use the scenarios to challenge students on if or when that are willing to compromise their values and why.
- **Social** – this session looks at the big issues that students feel are relevant to them and poses questions on how they can affect them.
- **Emotional** – this session looks at how each of us is affected by our experiences, from early childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood. It explores how those experiences affect the ways we react to certain situations and gives student the tools to recognise and manage the triggers that relate to early life experiences
- **Cognitive** – this session helps students define how they want to be seen by other people and how other people see them. It challenges their conscious or unconscious decisions that affect their perception that they have to adapt their personality because of the influence of others.
- **Cultural** – this session looks at how our cultural experiences can shape us. There is a strong focus on social media as well as music, streaming programmes and the wider media. It aims to explore how the culture of Gen Z differs from previous generations but also that every generation has pushed new boundaries.

In order to assess the programme, the pilot programme will be delivered at Nicholas Chamberlaine School with Year 10 students starting in the second half of the Spring Term.

We are particularly keen to involve students who can challenge us and help us really shape the programme and its content called Choices and Consequences which gives an insight in how county lines drugs markets work and how young people can take steps to keep themselves safe from exploitation by those connected to county lines, violence and sexual exploitation.

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If it would be helpful, we would be willing to organise a session with parents / guardians or even consider running a programme alongside students so that we can brief parents on what we have covered and where we are seeing changes.

Please complete the following Google Form so we can gauge interest in a parent / carer session for NCS Families to come in and speak with our leading speakers.

<https://forms.gle/i84xGiH5XFt2A3EV8>

We would like to thank you in advance for your support with your child's attendance to the Identity Programme tutor sessions. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact your child's tutor or anyone from the Y10 Team.

Jonathan Toy, who is the lead in this project, has also written a book, "Silent Voices" (2016). This is particularly insightful where there are an amalgam of true stories of those on the front line of gang violence. They give an unique perspective on the underlying causes of why people get involved in gang lifestyle and the impact it has on a local community.

Best wishes

The Y10 Team