



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College



Our Vision: To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.

Dear Parents/Carers

Re. Online Safety and Sexual Harassment in Schools

As you may already be aware, there have been national concerns over the use of TikTok. There appears to be a recent trend on TikTok of students creating content using images of teachers publicly available on school websites. Some TikTok videos apparently contain footage taken without teacher consent, and others are also edited in 'insulting' ways, including defamation of character and bringing the school into disrepute.

Whilst we expect our students to know and understand the high expectations we hold of them as well as the importance of our Shirley Values we would just like to remind you that should any of our students be found to be involved in activity such as this we will regard it as serious, apply the necessary sanctions and inform our Safer Schools Police Team.

The Safer Schools Team have also produced a letter, which will also be shared with families.

Please be aware that online safety remains a high priority for us and we ask that you help support us in keeping our community safe online by equipping yourselves with as much knowledge as possible.

With that in mind please see the following:

Parent Zone - Come and join a parent event

Parent Zone Local is a new support service for families in Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Croydon. It offers advice, activities, information and tools to help families navigate their digital world. They also have live events and training to help parents foster their children's digital resilience.

Parent Zone is offering parents an opportunity to access information through Parent Zone around online safety. The range of topics include: **online safety, misinformation, screen time, gaming**, and even a **virtual family quiz event**. Join them to learn more about the digital world – all from one of their expert hosts.

The link to the website is: <https://www.pzlocal.org.uk/events>

Finally, as I believe you are all aware, following the high profile of the topic in the news, sexual harassment and peer on peer abuse in schools is widely under reported and therefore not dealt with appropriately. At Shirley High School we have recognised that in order to report issues such as this, students must understand what is right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable as well as have the confidence and feel safe enough to report their concerns.

We have already surveyed a sample of our students in Year 8 – 13 and will be surveying more on these issues in due course. We can report the following:

Action taken immediately following the results of the survey:

- We have booked agencies (Rape Crisis, Croydon Health and Croydon Drop In) to come into school to teach about sexual harm, Year 10 had their session last Friday
- We have reviewed the Personal Development curriculum to make sure it covers all types of sexual harm in all year groups
- We have undertaken staff training on sexual harm in schools

"Striving for Excellence"

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk **Email:** office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

Shirley High School is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No 7837778 Registered Office: Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5EF





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- We have organised an online information session for parents
- We have put more staff on duty around the school

We are proposing the following action following the results of the survey:

- We are going to run assemblies explaining exactly what constitutes sexual harm
- The school and year council will discuss the ideas put forward for improvement and decide which to implement
- We will appoint staff as sexual harm ambassadors. The school council will have input into who these staff are
- We will ensure all students know how they can report sexual harm anonymously
- We will conduct another survey later in the year to ensure we are making progress in this area
- We will be having a theme week on the Equalities Act 2010 this term

Following on from the successful Year 10 Personal Development Day with sessions on sexual harassment and peer on peer abuse, facilitated by external agencies, a parent face to face session on this subject is being scheduled for January 2022. As well as this to support Internet Safety Week starting on 7th February 2022 there will be an online safety parents session scheduled for that week. Details of these parent / carer sessions will be sent out nearer the time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me francis@shirley.croydon.sch.uk or Ms Fair (Assistant Principal) fair@shirley.croydon.sch.uk should you wish to discuss any of the content of this letter in more detail.

Yours faithfully

Ms Francis

Deputy Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead

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