



Merseyside Police Newsletter -Putting our school Community first

Christmas end of year Newsletter 2023



What a busy first term we have had! I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to our Safer Schools officers and staff across all of our Merseyside schools, for their unfailing dedication and commitment to ensure that the children receive a plethora of fantastic opportunities, despite the many barriers we are faced in society today. I wish them all a well deserved rest with their own families this Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support - please do have a happy and peaceful Christmas. I am looking forward to working with you all further in the New Year!

Merry Christmas!!

Ms F. Smith



1 - Current trends and what to watch out for...



2 - Nitrous Oxide Ban

Nitrous oxide is a colourless gas, also known as 'laughing gas'. It can be misused for its psychoactive effects – or to 'get a high' – by inhalation.

[Nitrous oxide ban: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

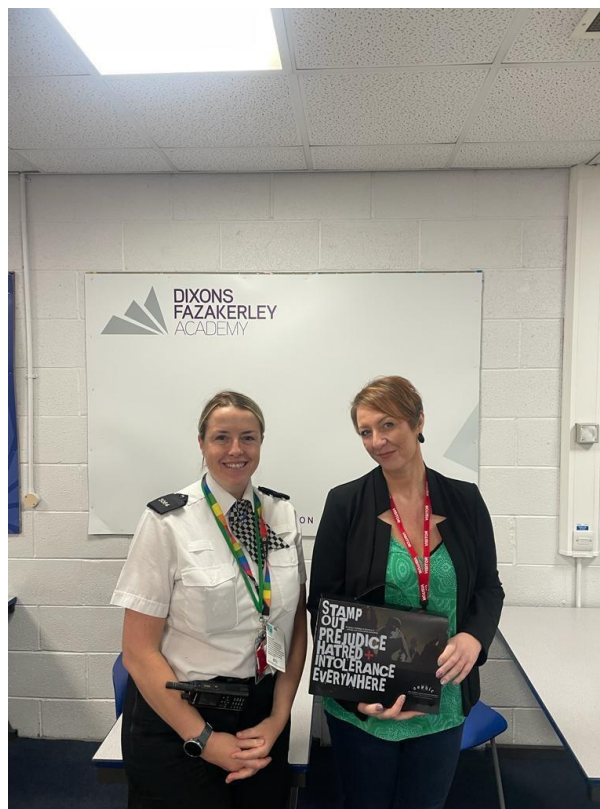


3 - Self defence lanyard

Attached is a 'self defence lanyard' being sold on Tik Tok and other online platforms. It is essentially encouraging young people to be equipped with the tools to protect themselves and some even have concealed blades in the key ring.



4 - Good news!



5 - PC Caroline-

'Myself and Cobalt Housing arranged a hate awareness session on the last day Autumn of term in Dixons Fazakerley. This came about through the Cohesion group created for school and community partners to support one another around hate awareness and prevention.

Dixons Croxteth and Fazakerley have created a student anti racism group meet who meet every Monday after school which is running across both sites. Merseyside Police and partners continue to engage with young people to support and raise awareness.'



6 - PC Phil and PC Harriet-

'Great day at Archbishop Blanch, we generated a lot of interest and should have some potential cadets coming our way for the next cohort and in the future. The students were lovely, polite, and well-mannered and the school itself were great hosts. It was very well organised and had an amazing spread of pastries for breakfast and a big buffet for lunch!

We also offered an insight into policing, the different entry routes available, volunteering opportunities and the special constabulary.

Big thank you to Anthony Stagg their careers advisor for organising the event too 🙏



7 - Mrs D Lodge: Broughton Hall -

Hate Crime Production - Reckless

As we approached National Hate Crime Awareness Week, on Thursday 12th October the Liverpool Empire Theatre visited school with a live performance of Reckless. Years 8 and 9 were invited to watch the production which focuses on the impact of Hate Crime. The production and cast were excellent, the message was a very emotive one, the production was very powerful and has helped to develop our young people's understanding of Hate Crime and the impact on themselves and others.

Thank you to all of the cast and support at Liverpool Empire Theatre for delivering this superb performance.

Also a special thank you for all the support we have had from our interim Safer Schools Officer, Jo and a big welcome to our newly appointed Safer Schools Officer, Harriet.



Here is PC Simon working in our Knowsley schools, delivering Merseyside Police assemblies including all of the key messages around Anti Social Behaviour.

Great work!



9 - PC Claire, PC Nyle & PC Will-

*We held the first of two nights diversionary activities at **Birkenhead Park School** during ' Mischief Night' - we had 40 children from Year 6 at Priory Parish Primary and Years 7 and 8 from Birkenhead Park School who attended, taking part in a carousel of activities, including - Rap and beat box work shop, graffiti art workshop, Sports multi skills and Karate.*

It was a great night- the kids really engaged and some are coming back for another night to do it all again!



10 - Knife Arch- North Liverpool Academy

Feedback from school-

'We recently worked in collaboration with our Safer Schools Officer and Merseyside Police to conduct a knife arch operation at North Liverpool Academy. The strategy was used as part of an on-going initiative to keep our school safe and re-iterate our zero tolerance policy on weapons in school. Both staff and students welcomed over 15 officers on the day. We believe this type of intervention strategy can only strengthen the relationship between the Police and our school community. Due to its resounding success, we plan to continue working in partnership to plan more events of this type. '



11 - PC Caroline-

*A big thanks for the support with vehicles and staff for this event with students at **Bank View High**.*

The students as always were great fun and engaged really well with me and the team.

We discussed different career options within the police service from civilian to uniformed roles, different kit used for what policing purpose and how we keep Merseyside safe.



12 - PC Simon -

*During our Knife Crime week of action, children at **Prescot School** received a great presentation delivered by PC Simon. The group were very engaged and asked lots of questions!*



13 - PC Donna & PC Lisa-

St Augustine's knife crime input delivered via teams to all form classes approximately 600 students and 70 members of staff.

Some feedback as follows -

- *Age appropriate the form found it interesting and useful information was given. Stop and search was very good spoke to the class and discussions were had after.*
 - *Really good messages given and was age appropriate.*
 - *Created discussion, age appropriate, informal.*
- *Session delivered was age appropriate, followed by our PSHE lesson.*



14 - PC Charlie-

*'Great session yesterday afternoon. **Maghull High** had picked a brilliant Y7 class to deliver this to, and their engagement and effort during the session was fantastic. Due to this engagement, questions came thick & fast and were fantastic, and showed that even at such a young age they were aware of pertinent issues within their own communities. '*

Ideas from the children to prevent knife crime and create safety in our communities-

- *More CCTV*
- *More visible Police patrols*

- Knowledge of stranger danger
 - Obeying the law
 - Ban all weapons
- Panic button to call Police
 - Ban all firearms
 - Weapon amnesty's
 - More education
- Licence needed for carrying knives
- Not falling for peer pressure



15 - PC Caroline-

*'On Monday 13th November, myself and **New Heights High KS3** attended Radio City tower for the #kNOwKnifeCrime campaign, who have collaborated with Cash for Kids and KnifeSavers UK.*

This was a really positive and impactful youth anti-knife crime event with a goal of having safer communities with the installation of bleed kits/ cabinets.

Laura Hughes the ambassador of kNOwmoreknivecrime continues to fundraise for the bleed kits and cabinets.

The event served as a platform to identify attendees interested in receiving a kit or cabinet for their respective communities.

The event combined awareness of the campaign, which continues to seek to create safer environments for young people in the region through regional partnerships.

From their fundraising and funding through Mp Steve Rotherham Laura has over 150 kits which will need to be allocated to the identified secondary schools in the Liverpool borough.

We talked of the consideration of our support with the campaign, potential fundraising and our assistance in the distribution to school owing to the positive relations that we have in place.

*On Tuesday 14th November we supported with a knife arch at **New Heights** after our assemblies had been given by staff. Walton Lane Local Policing Team assisted with this too and was well received.'*



16 - PC Caroline-

1000 students at Archbishop Beck Catholic Sports College have received Knife Crime assemblies all week to support Knife Crime.



De La Salle School

17 - PC Lisa-

Full School assembly around our Knife Crime week of action at De La Salle.

Weatherhead High School

18 - PC Nyle-

*'I've received some positive feedback from **Weatherhead**. The knife Crime presentation was delivered during form time to 1260 pupils ranging from Y7 through to sixth form. The school are really appreciative of the PowerPoint and feel form time delivery was the best method. Furthermore the inputs have led to several pupils coming forward with information that has been useful to know for the safeguarding team.*



19 - PC Claire, PC Nyle, PC Elaine & PC Will-

In the Zone -

In the Zone is a partnership between [Wirral](#) Council, Merseyside Police, the Probation Service and community organisation Catch 22 bringing a different approach to issues around exploitation, knife crime, criminal gangs, drugs, alcohol, and safety on the internet.

Sessions are being held with schools across the Wirral using interactive games similar to Pac-Man, Monopoly, and Trivial Pursuit to learn about online safety and what to do in a situation if someone is stabbed or choking after drinking. In the Zone is one of two projects along with Operation Inclusion looking to prevent crime among young people.

We deliver to year 9 students, so school split them into 5 groups and they rotate around the workshops so that they attend each zone throughout the day.

[How games are stopping children from getting caught up in crime - Liverpool Echo](#)



20 - Knife Arch- ALSOP



21 - PC Simon & PC Jo-

*We spoke to all year groups about different roles within the police at **Lord Derby Academy**. This included engagement with Year 7 and 8 allowing them to try on body armour and high vis coats.*

We raised discussions with the pupils around what they think the police role looks like, and how we operate in a diverse way whilst leading on lots of proactive activities across our communities and pointing the children in the right direction for their chosen careers.



22 - PC Lisa

*There has been a 4 week training programme at **Sutton Academy** including the following topics; Social Media, Knife Crime, ASB and then a Q and A with the children so they could raise the issues they have with the community and how we could best support.*

School have said there has been a huge difference in the young peoples attitude with me dramatically and they were comfortable to ask any questions.



23 - Hampers

Our Safer Schools Team have nominated victims of crime for a Police Federation Christmas Hamper and vouchers to enjoy over the festive period. 20 hampers were received this year.



24 - PC Nyle & PC Will

'We taught the Year 9 cohort of circa 240 boys as part of the 'In the Zone' delivery,, over a 2 day period.

Some of the topic areas covered were: - Leadership and teamwork tasks around crime hierarchy and 'golden hour principles/ stop and search practical / how 'Prevention' aligns with community partners and finish with the Merseyside Police video on the Wallasey shootings from the Lighthouse pub that links to the teamwork tasks. '

Feedback from a parent-

I just wanted to give you a little feedback on the 'In the Zone' visit. I can't speak for others but ___ thoroughly enjoyed the visit; he spent nearly an hour, when he arrived home, telling me about all the different sessions and the subjects covered and appears to have been very receptive to the advice given. It also opened the door for some in-depth conversations around all the agencies.

So, great find and great work to the In the Zone team!



25 - Empower cyber first event- PC Simon & PC Jen

*Young people from **Dixons Broadgreen** and **Prescot school** had a great time. They got to try out different bits of tech, problem solve whilst working as a team and hopefully were inspired re the possibilities open to them when considering careers in the future.*

Operation Shepherd



Operation Shepherd is Merseyside Police's annual campaign to reduce crime and keep communities safe during the festive season.

You can expect to see more officers out and about on the run up to Christmas and into New Year, but there's much more to it than that. It's an extensive force-wide operation involving a wide variety of teams, each with their own area of expertise, and they all play a part.

A wide variety of teams will be working together to prevent crime and identify those that do commit offences, using every tactic we have available to track the offenders down and put them before the courts.

Personal Safety:

- ***Look confident***

You are less likely to be targeted if you look confident. Move with purpose and try to be aware of your surroundings.

- ***Know where you're going***

Plan your route and think about what to take with you, especially if you're going somewhere you haven't been before. Keep to busy, well-lit streets, walkways and paths which are more likely to be covered by CCTV. Only take licensed taxis or minicabs booked by phone or a mobile phone app.

- ***Keep your distance***

When walking behind someone, particularly at night, try to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and the person ahead of you. Remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you might seem.

- ***Cross the road***

Somebody running up behind you, particularly at night, can be frightening.

If you're out for an evening run, or walk, and see someone walking ahead, cross the road, call out to let them know you're about to run by them or make sure to leave a good amount of space when you pass them.

- ***Keep comments to yourself***

What you might think of as just a bit of fun, or flattery, can be insulting, upsetting or even scary to someone else. Keep any comments or opinions to yourself.

- ***Keep your friends in line***

If you're in a group of people where someone is harassing another person on the street, try to calm the situation. They may just need to be told that they're behaving inappropriately.

Protect your mobile phones:

- Don't leave your phone, iPad, tablet or camera unattended, out of your sight, or left on a table. Thieves can grab a phone from a table in seconds.
- Be aware of your surroundings and only use your mobile when it feels safe to.
- When you've finished using it, put it away.

- **Secure your phone**

Use your phone's security features to stop someone using your phone if it's stolen. Choose a strong PIN, passcode, password or pattern.

- **Get your IMEI number**

Get your phone's IMEI number by typing *#06# on your phone keypad. Keep a note of it somewhere other than on your phone. The IMEI can help track the phone down if it's lost or stolen.

- **Use a tracking app**

Set up a tracking app on your phone so you can see where it is from another device like a laptop. Use it as soon as possible, before thieves have a chance to disable it.

Operation Shepherd will provide crime prevention advice, extra patrols and the high visibility activity over the next month and I hope this additional activity will reassure people living, working and visiting our region that they are able to enjoy this magical time of year!



26 - Guidance for parents: Knife Crime

Most young people don't want to carry or use a knife. But some may carry a weapon because they're afraid of others carrying one. Knife crime can also be a direct result of drug dealing and gang turf wars.

The topic is often in the news, so it's common for parents and carers to worry about knives. There is support available if you need it, and some things you can do to support your child.

If your child is carrying a knife, it may not be because they're looking for trouble. Peer pressure, social media and exploitation by gangs can make young people feel they should protect themselves.

Trying to understand why your child is behaving the way they are can help you work out how to support them.

We have some advice on what to do if you think your child is being exploited.

[Child exploitation: what you need to know - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

Create a space for open conversations

Have open and honest conversations with your child about what they think and feel. They may not want to talk, but don't force the conversation. Let them know you're there for them if they need you. This way they'll be more likely to speak up if they do get into any trouble.

- *See if there's someone they trust, like a family member, that they would feel happy speaking to.*
 - *Help them understand the consequences of carrying a knife.*

Help them make positive connections

Be aware of where your child is when they go out, and who they're with. Show an interest in their friends without putting pressure on them to tell you everything. Get to know your child's friends and invite them over.

Find ways to help your child connect with others in their community, so they have positive interactions with those around them. Help them understand what makes good friends!

Help them stay safe

Think about putting a safety plan in place, without making it too formal. You can:

- *Make sure your child always has a phone on them, and the phone has credit.*
- *Let them know they should call 999 if they are being threatened or in danger.*
 - *Check they have enough money to get home, or arrange a lift.*
- *Talk through scenarios that worry your child, and how they could get out of those situations.*
 - *Ensure your child is aware of their surroundings.*
 - *Help them learn to listen to their gut if they feel worried or bad about a situation.*
 - *Tell them to avoid going anywhere with people they don't know.*
- *Ask them to let you know if they move somewhere different from where they said they would be.*

Get support

Ask your child's school, what they're doing to educate young people on knife crime and how our Safer Schools police officers are supporting. Your child may find it easier to speak in a class or group setting. It's always important to inform your school's Designated Safeguarding Lead if you are worried about anything around this topic (DSL)



27 - Contact us

Merseyside Police

Emergency enquiries

Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon?

Is someone in immediate danger? Do you need support right away?

If so, please [call 999](#) now.

If you accidentally dial 999, please stay on the line and tell the operator you're safe and that no crime has occurred.

Non Emergency enquiries

Call [101](#) for non-emergency enquiries