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**Headteacher: Mr Steven Shaw** 

January 2024

Ref: MD/CJ

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you we are presenting an interactive play to all of our Year 7 and 8 pupils on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, tackling the difficult issue of knife crime, as part of our PHSE curriculum.

The increasing problem of knife crime is often featured on the news, and I am sure that you are aware of incidences involving knife crime both locally and nationally, and in many areas of their lives, including the internet and social networking sites, through friendship groups and people known to the young people themselves.

The best protection we can give to our young people is a knowledge of the dangers so they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried. The play presented is called "Breaking the Chain", a hard-hitting applied theatre production that aims to raise awareness, kick-start conversations and build resilience, with a focus on knife crime; a crucial part of a public health approach to tackling this issue.

This activity in secondary schools is part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling serious youth violence in Gloucestershire and is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Gloucestershire Constabulary and supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning and all Partner Agencies in the county.

We hope this powerful play will be a memorable way to enhance the PSHE curriculum and help our young people to stay safe.

If you have any questions regarding this upcoming performance please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Dempsey Head of PSHE