

Dear parent carer

## County Lines Workshop - Tuesday 12th December 2023 (17:30 - 18:30)

As a follow up to Mr Lynch's previous communication regarding the issue of county lines, we would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a County Lines Workshop at Sheldon. This event is intended for parent carers ony. Recognising the gravity of the issue of county lines, the workshop will be held in conjunction with The Rise Trust and Wiltshire Police. The workshop aims to equip parent carers with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognise the signs of county lines involvement, how to protect children from exploitation, and how to seek help if needed.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. As you may recall, county lines refers to the illegal practice of drug gangs targeting vulnerable individuals, often minors, to transport and distribute drugs from urban areas to other locations, predominantly rural or coastal regions.

We intend for the workshop to foster open dialogue and ensure a shared understanding of the potential risks associated with county lines. By working together, we can create a safer environment for our children, helping them make informed decisions and avoid falling victim to exploitation.

Although a complex issue, we believe that proactive engagement in addressing issues like county lines is vital to safeguarding our children's future. Your presence at this workshop will play a significant role in our collective efforts to create a safer community.

To confirm your attendance or if you have any questions regarding the workshop, please complete the Microsoft Form RSVP (link <a href="here">here</a>). We kindly request that you RSVP by midday on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 so that we can make appropriate arrangements. Whilst we recognise this is a relatively quick turnaround, we wanted to ensure that parents carers are equipped with this information before the Christmas holidays, where students will invariably have considerably more unstructured time.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you at the County Lines Workshop.

Kind regards

**Andy Symes** 

Deputy Headteacher – Pedagogy and Professional Development

