



To: Parents/Carers of Year 8 students

SH/LS

25th May 2017

Dear Parent/carers

We have the opportunity to run 'Second Thoughts' workshops for our Year 8 students. Part one will run on the 7th and 8th June and part two on 15th and 16th June. Each student will participate in a two hour session on two of the above dates. Two of the sessions will be filmed by Equaliteach for their promotional purposes. A permission slip has been sent home for those students who will be filmed. Please see the attached flyer to give you some idea of what your son/daughter will be learning during the workshops.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hilton
Inclusion Manager

Acting Headteacher: Chris Carter

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SECOND THOUGHTS!

EXCLUSIVE!

"HAVE YOU HEARD?"

"JOIN NOW TO SHOW YOUR DISGUST!"



"SHARE IF YOU AGREE!"

"YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT..."



"THIS IS NOT A JOKE..."



Today, more than ever before, young people are being bombarded by messages from friends, family and the media, which can leave them vulnerable to picking up stereotypes, misinformation and prejudicial views. Young people should be afforded the opportunity to discuss these issues in a safe and supportive environment.

This provides a platform for their concerns and a chance to develop the skills they need to think critically so they can reject negative and damaging views.



Our workshops are suitable for pupils in Year 7 upwards and are fully interactive and participatory. Workshops aim to:

- provide young people with the opportunity to consider their opinions and how their world view is formed
- help young people to think critically about the information that they receive and recognise the dangers of stereotyping and misinformation
- help young people to identify bias, propaganda, and symbolism in the media
- illustrate how easily divisions can be created between groups of people, which can escalate into conflict, and how to deal with it
- explore the push and pull factors involved in joining groups and how young people can protect themselves and each other from involvement in extreme groups
- provide young people with tools to utilise their critical thinking skills to build resilience and reject prejudice, hatred and extremism

The workshops link with the English and Citizenship curriculums and help schools to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, including the new duty to promote Fundamental British Values
- prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- meet the requirements of the new Prevent duty
- meet their duties to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations under the Equality Act (2010)
- assist pupil safeguarding and community cohesion

The programme is flexible, fits within the existing school day, and is tailored to the specific needs of the young people. We ask students to complete pre- and post-workshop questionnaires, which inform the content of the sessions and are used to collate a report for the school to demonstrate the impact of the programme and highlight where further work is required.

We spend between two and four hours with each class over the course of one or two days. The programme is accompanied by a workbook which is completed during the sessions and every pupil who completes the workbook will receive a certificate.

Where interventions are spread over a number of days, there are opportunities for the young people to carry out additional work around the topics in their own time. Prizes are given out for the best pieces of work.



Teachers' Feedback:

"We have found the sessions very interactive and have observed that the students are fully engaged. The workshops are informative and delivered in a language that the students understand. The facilitators allow the students to share their own ideas and thoughts. I would recommend these workshops and would welcome the opportunity to invite Equaliteach back to deliver workshops to more of our students."

Sir William Ramsay School

"Excellent management of session by the facilitator, creating a very good 'open' atmosphere for all pupils to discuss and talk about certain topics and issues that they wouldn't normally."

Wycombe High School

For further information, or to arrange a meeting, please contact:

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