



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of a serious concern that has been brought to my attention by the local police, which I feel is important for all parents and guardians to be aware of. There have been recent incidents within our city involving young people and the use of ketamine, a powerful and potentially dangerous substance.

Ketamine has been found on students in some local schools, and while no such incident has occurred on our premises, we are taking proactive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. As a school community, we must remain vigilant and address this matter together.

Ketamine is a dissociative anaesthetic that can have serious physical and psychological effects. It can be particularly dangerous when taken without medical supervision. Short-term effects may include confusion, dizziness, loss of coordination, and hallucinations, while higher doses can cause a sense of detachment from reality and a loss of control over the body. Ketamine use can also lead to respiratory issues, unconsciousness, and, in extreme cases, death.

Moreover, ketamine has addictive properties, and frequent use can result in long-term health risks, including memory problems, bladder and kidney damage, and mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Its impact on developing minds can be profound and far-reaching.

We are working closely with local schools and the police to address this situation and will continue to provide students with education and resources on the dangers of drug use. On Thursday students will receive a joint assembly from ourselves and the local community based police officer. However, we also need your support as parents and carers to help protect our young people. Please take the time to speak with your child about the risks associated with drug use, and encourage open conversations about peer pressure and making safe choices.

If you have any concerns or need support in discussing this matter with your child, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school. Our pastoral team is available to provide guidance and connect you with appropriate resources. To support you, below are two useful parental links:

- <https://www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/family-friends/parents-carers-drugs-alcohol-info>
- <https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/concerned-about-a-child>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support in keeping our school community safe. Together, we can work to ensure that our young people remain protected and make informed choices that support their health and well-being.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Kearns
Headteacher

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