



EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alan Bruce
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10 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you looking for your support around the wellbeing and safety of our young people during the evenings and weekends. Over the course of the last few weeks, since term 3 started, we are hearing of increasing instances of risk taking behaviour around the wider Keith community in which groups of our pupils are involved. You may be aware of some of these incidents as they have been publicised on social media.

While many of these events have happened in various locations across Keith, we have noticed an increase on the school grounds also. Further to this we are hearing of young people causing a disturbance to residents in the area as well as damage to property.

Inspector Worton from Police Scotland and I met with colleagues on Wednesday looking at how we can support our community and our young people to make better decisions. We would like to make it clear that the overwhelming majority of young people, at the school and in the community, are just as concerned and upset that this is happening, want nothing to do with it and indeed are not involved.

We all have concerns around some of the behaviour we are seeing at the weekend and evenings, many young people are under the influence and are at a real risk of harm, to themselves, others and may be exposed to further vulnerability in these circumstances. If your son/daughter is making unsafe choices, this is not a safe environment for your child to be in and there may be additional risks and consequences if they are involved.

We have invited Police Scotland colleagues into school to discuss this behaviour and expectations and will do so again over the next few weeks. With Police Scotland's support we will also focus on anti-social behaviour during school visits. Furthermore our community partners are meeting to investigate what can be achieved in the short term but also to change behaviours in the longer term. We will keep you updated with progress in this respect and would urge you to become involved in any activities for the benefit of all. Police Scotland will increase their presence around the school and will continue to drop into the school at lunchtimes to make connections with pupils.

The people with the biggest influence here are families. It was very clear from recent events, that a group of youngsters were able to obtain quantities of alcohol and arrange to meet up during the evenings and weekends to consume it, with total disregard for how the school or wider environment was treated. We do not want this to escalate any further – as this may result in even more young people being at risk. Such community issues can only be solved by everyone playing their part in helping young people realise this type of behaviour is risky, anti-social and not acceptable.

In order to prevent this happening we request that you are aware of where your child is planning to spend their evenings and weekends, what they are doing and who they are with in order to help keep all of our children safe from harm. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Bruce', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Bruce
Head Teacher