



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL



26 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Our town's two secondary schools have been working closely with our partner agencies over the past few weeks investigating the current challenges around the safety of young people within the Romsey locality. Therefore, we are writing to inform you of the real issues that are now prevalent within our local community.

We strongly urge all parents to ensure that you know exactly where your children are at all times when they are out and about within Romsey. We advise you not to allow them out unless they have a clear purpose to being in Romsey with a specific regulated activity that has adult supervision such as a sports club. Hanging about without purpose puts them at risk. Please also ensure you know who your child is with and that they have means of communicating with you whilst they are taking part in this activity in case they need assistance. We consider this vital for the health and safety of all Romsey's youngsters.

The police have informed us that there have been a number of incidents recently where young people have been involved in some significant anti-social behaviours around Abbottswood, Fishlake Meadows, the skate park and surrounding parklands. These incidents have taken place during weekends and evenings. Some of these incidents have involved a small group of individuals whereas others have involved in excess of fifty young people.

In the last two weeks there have been a small number of cases of students from both our communities requiring hospital treatment after using vapes. It is suspected that the contents of these vapes was not what it appeared to be and this is currently being investigated. Students who have been affected by this have presented with accelerated heart rates far exceeding normal levels and confusion, and in one case, fitting and loss of consciousness.

Parents and carers are of course the key players in safeguarding their children. We continue to work together to balance providing sufficient freedoms to Romsey's young people so they grow into responsible citizens, whilst also maintaining an appropriate level of parental control and safety. This balance is of course challenging and therefore we must work together. If you feel you need support for your child or family, please do let us know by contacting info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

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