



Trinity

LEARNING • LOVING • LIVING

Jesus said "I have come that you may have life in all its fullness" (John 10v10)

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Dear Trinity Family,

As we enter week 4 of this half-term, we continue to be impressed with our pupils' attitude towards their learning. We have just had our reward assemblies in each year group and celebrated a range of pupils who have accumulated golden tickets for "going above and beyond" in lessons and around the school community.

We want to ensure we continue to work in collaboration with our parents/carers, and a crucial part of this is raising awareness and educating our pupils on topical issues that are prevalent in society currently. Therefore, we would like to inform you about an issue that has garnered wider media coverage over the last few months that can have a damaging and debilitating effect on young people if they engage with the substance. There have been several cases of young people taking a tobacco related product called "Snus" (pronounced snoose), which is a smokeless moist powder tobacco pouch that is placed under the top lip. The product is illegal to buy and sell in the UK and more importantly children under the age of 18 are not permitted to use the product.

We strongly believe it is important to inform you that pupils have been discussing this at school due to how prevalent it has become on social media. Furthermore, the product has grown in popularity amongst young people due to the perception that professional athletes take the product to "alleviate their stress levels".

There are obvious health risks/side effects associated with "Snus" that young people may be unaware of prior to experimenting as a result of peer pressure or temptation, such as, **psychosis, weight gain, obesity, vomiting, nicotine addiction, cancer of the mouth and type 2 diabetes**. We are acutely aware that we have a responsibility to educate and raise awareness of the dangers of engaging with this product, and therefore we have planned educational content surrounding the use of "Snus" that will be delivered to pupils throughout the course of this week. It is important the message is conveyed both at home and school and therefore we would like you to support the work undertaken by the school by reinforcing the message about the dangers of "Snus" to your child.

We are taking all the necessary steps to safeguard and provide educational content to our pupils to enable them to understand the gravity and severity of engaging with "Snus" or any other similar products. However, if a pupil does bring or consume this tobacco related item they will be sanctioned robustly in line with our school's behaviour policy and the incident will be reported to the relevant personnel.

We take great pride in our trinitarians and are committed to taking the appropriate steps to safeguard our whole community. Our pupils are independent and principled young people who typically make sensible and informed decisions, however we felt it was important to raise awareness to all parents/carers about an issue that is affecting young people in society currently. Through our collective approach we can make the lives of all our pupils within this community safer.

Yours faithfully,

Mr David Lucas - Executive Headteacher

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