



Belvidere  
School



Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Child Exploitation: Time to Listen**

As some of you may have heard on BBC Radio Shropshire earlier in the week, the Shrewsbury Schools have organised a series of events to highlight the dangers that our young people face in our ever-changing society. I have today been informed by Carolyn Knight of the Priory School, that there are still some places available at these events, and she has kindly offered them to the parents of The Corbet School.

The young people who attend our schools continually face a changing and challenging world. Both at home and at school, we are aware that parents/carers and school staff all encourage our young people to make good choices when they are given freedom and independence. Sometimes they face pressure from a number of different places, to engage in risky or unsafe behaviours which put them at risk of exploitation.

When we speak to the external agencies with whom we work – the police, for example – our conversations focus on two matters: first, they inform us of the increasingly risky environment our young people face and second, they share their first-hand experience of the consequences of making poor choices. In our schools, we sustain our message to be vigilant against those who would exploit young people's choices and we occasionally need to remind them of the consequences of such behaviours and choices.

Our young people face sustained pressure with respect to criminal exploitation. Such is the complexity of this area, and indeed such is the fast-changing nature of what they face, being reminded of this context is important.

We would like to invite you to hear from key professionals including the police and Young Addaction (a public health funded charity that supports students in relation to all forms of substance misuse) about both the local and national contexts, how young people might be affected and support that you can access if you have concerns. This is a community-wide venture and after the initial presentations there will be a number of key professionals available for you to talk to should you wish.

The purpose is to generate a healthy understanding of the pressures our young people face, with a view to supporting parents and carers to support, in turn, the young people they live with.

Three meetings will be held at Meole Brace, Priory and Belvidere schools' which parents/carers can book onto using the links to Eventbrite below. You are welcome to attend any event. Should the events

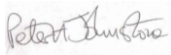
become fully booked, we will run further events in the Spring term. Due to the nature of the content of the evening, please do not bring children with you.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Meole Brace School: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-time-to-listen-tickets-80235509569?aff=Meole>

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Priory School: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-time-to-listen-tickets-80434264049?aff=Priory>

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Belvidere School: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-time-to-listen-tickets-80576663971?aff=Belvidere>

Yours sincerely



P Johnstone  
Belvidere



P Lowe-  
Werrell  
Mary Webb



A Doust  
Meole Brace



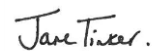
M J Barratt  
The Priory



J Arnold  
Shrewsbury  
Academy

PP

L  
Bloomer  
TMBS



Dr Jane Tinker  
Corbet School