Our Ref: MM/MEM

October 2021

For the attention of all parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Safety in the Community**

With Halloween and Bonfire Night fast approaching, we are aware of increasing activities involving fireworks and anti-social behaviour in our local community and wanted to write to parents of Formby High School and Range High School students to highlight some key safety concerns and expectations which we would urge you to share with your child(ren).

Fireworks are explosives and can be highly dangerous. Anyone under 16 found in possession of a firework, including bangers, can be arrested and fined £60. A young person can also be arrested if he/she throws or lights a firework in a public place, makes a bonfire in a public place or injures, endangers or annoys other people with a firework. Both Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Merseyside Police have useful guidance on their website which we would encourage you to read.

We would also like to emphasise that should any student be found in possession of a firework whilst in school, then the school will take immediate action and treat the incident as an extreme behaviour breach. Possessing and/or activating a firework in school or whilst walking to/from school will result in exclusion from school and Merseyside Police will be informed.

Everyone should be able to safely enjoy Halloween, Bonfire Night and being out and about in their local community. Anti-social behaviour in the community is not acceptable and will be dealt with swiftly by the authorities, with the full cooperation of our schools. To prevent the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, we have been advised by the Police that ‘dispersal zones’ will be in place in Formby for the next few weekends. Your child(ren) would be well advised to avoid areas where large groups of young people may gather in the evening.

The schools place high importance on their reputation in the local community and the role of their students as good ambassadors. Before we break for half term, students across both schools will receive guidance from their teachers about staying safe during this period and, to reinforce the message, we would encourage parents to speak with their child(ren) about expectations around behaviour and safety during this period.

We would all agree that we want our young people to enjoy themselves but to ensure they fully respect their community and the safety of all who belong to it.

Yours sincerely,

 

M M McGarry D A Mackenzie

Headteacher Headteacher (Formby High School)