



Dear Parent/carer,

During March 2020 Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists *Alter Ego Creative Solutions* to tour local schools in our area with their highly innovative production 'Breaking the Chain'.

A performance of 'Breaking the Chain' is taking place at **Queensbury Academy** on **19th March 2020**.

'Breaking the Chain' is a hard-hitting applied theatre production, that aims to raise awareness, kick-start conversations and build resilience around youth violence - with a focus on knife crime - as part of a public health approach to tackling the issue – an issue that is seeing young people seriously hurt and, all too often, killed on the streets of our towns and cities.

The 50-minute production and post-show Q&A is aimed at raising awareness of:

- The risks and consequences of youth violence and knife crime
- Creating common language and kick-starting conversations
- Building resilience by promoting core skills
- Where to go for help and advice

Youth violence and knife crime is a highly sensitive subject and every care has been taken to ensure that the production is hard-hitting and relevant without being graphic or offensive. The issues are raised and discussed in a manner entirely relevant and suitable for the target age group.

With more and more cases occurring around the country, it is all of our duties to raise awareness of this subject. Councils, charities, support agencies, schools, parents and carers all need to engage with and acknowledge this issue in order to give young people the tools and knowledge that they need to keep themselves and their friends safe.

The production will have support from Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board partners and the individual schools during the tour that will make sure that the appropriate care is in place should any of the young people wish to discuss the issues in the play afterwards.

We are also holding 2 evening performances for parents/carers of children and young people living in Central Bedfordshire, the performances will be held on Tuesday 10th March at Queensbury Academy at 6pm and on Wednesday 18th March at Sandy Secondary School at 6.30pm. If you would like to attend one of the performances, please contact the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to reserve a place on LSCB@Centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 6455. You must book a place as places are limited and based on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production please contact **Mrs Rachel Mason** (rachelmason@queensburyacademy.com).

Kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Mason
Senior Vice Principal and DSL
Queensbury Academy