Johnstone High School 

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Dear Parent/Carer,

**POLICE SCOTLAND – SCHOOL TALKS**

Johnstone High School works closely with our community partners in order to maximise outcomes for our young people. As such, our community police officers, PCs Walsh and McMinn are regular, welcomed visitors to our school to support our work and build positive, trusting relationships with our young people and their families.

The police also have an educational component to their work and over the years have contributed to our PSE programme through events, assemblies and classroom based lessons.

We have agreed for officers to come into school on Tuesday 11th June, p1-4 to speak to all pupils through year group assemblies. They will be speaking on the subject of knife crime, which is currently high profile in the media. This is part of a tour of schools and I am aware that other Renfrewshire high schools have already had this talk delivered.

I have viewed the material and it is powerful, however I am sure that you will agree that this is an extremely important area. We need to educate our youngsters so they make good choices and keep themselves safe. The police will deliver a power point presentation and will use You Tube clips of actors staging youth crime. They will also use real footage taken of gang-related knife crime. All clips are contextualised and reinforce the key messages that the police are trying to convey.

We will ensure that the pupils know beforehand that they are free to go into the canteen area if they do not wish to watch these clips. It is also important to note that in the real footage there is the use of racist language and some swearing. Again, we will emphasis with the young people that this is highly offensive and that we in no way condone the use of such words.

Thank you in advance for your support in relation to this important matter. I would encourage all parents to discuss this assembly with your child that evening in order to explore the topic more fully as a family. Moreover, our pastoral team will be happy to support any parent around this area, should you wish to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher