

October 2008

Dear Parents

**Parents' Forum, Thursday 16 October, 7pm  
Teenagers and Illegal Drugs – Jonnie Leach**

On Thursday 16 October we are holding a Drugs Information Day for all students in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms. We have invited Jonnie Leach to spend a day at the school speaking to our students.

Over the past seven years Jonnie has spoken to thousands of young people, and hundreds of parents, in over 200 independent schools, and has developed a Parents' Presentation to raise awareness and encourage an open and honest dialogue between parents and their children on a range of important issues.

Although Jonnie Leach ended up addicted to drink and drugs, his story is something parents should be aware of, even if their children never touch drugs. The reasons he became addicted are common in many young people, not just addicts and alcoholics. They are nothing to do with drink and drugs themselves, but with the underlying feelings of insecurity, low self-esteem, inability to fit in, lack of confidence, extreme mood swings, a sense of personal isolation and emotional insecurities, which can also lead to eating disorders, self harm and other debilitating problems.

We warmly invite you to attend the evening presentation. It will take place in the Peter Masefield Hall, beginning at 7.00pm. Coffee will be served.

Members of staff who work with children as form tutors and PSHE teachers will attend, and a representative of the Surrey Police has also been invited. It is anticipated that the Forum will last until about 8.30pm.

All parents are invited to attend the Forum, but it should be of particular interest to parents of children from the Fourth Form upwards.

I look forward to seeing you on 16 October.

Yours sincerely

Peter Chesterton  
Chaplain, Head of PSHE