



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

13 November 2025

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

Schools in our district often work together, and engage with other local agencies, to promote positive behaviours, highlight risks to young people and safeguard the students in our care.

We have been approached by Essex Police to participate in an initiative aimed at tackling knife crime, something which has received a lot of attention in the media in recent times. All 8 secondary schools in the Braintree District have agreed to host a visit from the Police Knife Arch team. On the day of the visit, which will not be publicised in advance, all students arriving on the school site will walk through a metal detecting knife arch as they enter the school grounds. Officers will be on hand to offer advice, reassurance and support to students and it will be a great way for them to engage with young people and to raise awareness of this highly topical and relevant issue. Please note that if a prohibited item were to be found, this would be dealt with through the school's policies and procedures in the first instance, it would not automatically trigger any action from the Police.

I do wish to be clear that our involvement with this initiative in no way indicates that we have specific concerns about knife crime within our school. We have no intention to alarm students or parents unnecessarily and we are confident that students in our school are already well informed about the serious risks and consequences associated with carrying knives. However, we should never be complacent, and we therefore welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Police and with other local schools in a bid to keep our community safe.

I trust you will recognise the value in this exercise, but if you do have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr C Abrey, Deputy Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Finch
Headteacher

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