



6th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Woking High School, we promote personal development and wellbeing through a comprehensive and bespoke Personal Development Educational Programme, tailored specifically to enhance and challenge our students' understanding of the wider world and themselves.

On Friday 17th March, we are delighted to welcome a guest speaker, Paul Hannaford, to speak to our students on Aspire to Be Day.

Paul is passionate about educating young people and raising awareness of knife crime, gangs, prison, drugs, county lines and all that comes with this lifestyle. Over the past 10 years, Paul has built a successful career educating over half a million young people around the UK, in both primary and secondary schools, football clubs, pupil referral units, youth centres, prisons and young offender facilities. The media is regularly reporting on growing knife crime amongst young people across the country and we hope that this talk will support our students' understanding of the issues and implications of knife crime. You will be able to find more information on Paul and his life journey by following the link below:

<https://www.paulhannaford.com/>

Paul is also on a variety of social media platforms and is active in sharing his experiences to support the education of young people. His assembly stems from his personal experience, where Paul gives an honest and harrowing account of how easily his involvement with drugs and knife crime happened to him from a very young age. He speaks about the effects this had on his physical and mental health, the damage he caused to friends and family and the immense danger he found himself in. He will explain how he escaped this world, but of the lasting damage caused by his choices. It is a raw, honest and hard-hitting tale.

On his visit to Woking High School, Paul will be delivering a 1-hour assembly to each year group, meaning that he will be able to share his story with the whole school community. To support all students, a staffed Wellbeing room will be available throughout the day, should any of the students wish to discuss any of the matters raised.

If you have any concerns prior to the assembly or would prefer for your child not to attend the assembly, please contact A2Bconsult@wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk or contact the relevant Head of Year for your child by Tuesday 14th March.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Wilson

Subject Lead for A2B

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