



# Castleford Park Junior Academy

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Manager:

*Mrs S Beedle*

Chair of  
Governors

*Mr J Dossey*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Dear Parent/Guardian;

This is to notify you that your child will shortly be participating in a one-hour drug awareness lesson, to take place on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September in the morning. Drug Education is expected of schools, and this year, we have invited our usual charity to present The Truth About Drugs talk to our older pupils.

Whilst we don't expect that any of our children will come into contact with drugs while young, it is nevertheless important to educate children BEFORE they come into contact with drugs, later in life. After all, no child grows up with a life ambition to become a drug addict, but unfortunately, due to lack of education on the subject, many do.

There is much misinformation about drugs -- most of which is generated by the people who profit from them; but when a child is armed with fundamental facts about drugs, and they acquire a firm understanding of the risks associated with them, they are able to recognise truth from lies. This empowers them to make informed decisions, deciding for themselves, NOT to use drugs.

The organisation presenting your child's drug education has been visiting our school for many years. They are The CHILDREN Charity Partnerships and they present The Truth About Drugs to children, arming them with facts about drugs and explaining their harmful effects and longer term consequences; all with the intended result that children will then lack desire or interest to use drugs. The organisation visits thousands of Yorkshire schools, each year, and have educated more than 370,000 children over the past 14 years.

(On an optimistic note, The CHILDREN Charity Partnerships inform us that more recent national surveys have interestingly shown that Yorkshire and the Humber have had the most marked reduction in child drug use over the past 10 years -- a greater reduction than any other UK region. The wider use of Drug Awareness programmes has been cited by experts as being the reason for this reduced drug use, demonstrating the vital role Drug Education plays in keeping our children drug-free.)

The one-hour lesson incorporates several modules; the earlier sections covering the various ways drugs and alcohol affect the body as well as the mind, discussing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol and their short term and longer term consequences. The organisation's speakers give lots of real life examples, providing age-appropriate information, and interacting with the children to provide a safe platform for them to ask questions and thus improve their own understanding of this vital topic.

At the end of the educational session, the speaker finally ends off with a brief discussion on the attainment of life-goals, discussing hobbies and how the "highs" obtained from living, rather than from drug-induced chemical "highs", are what make us happy. The key point



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being that statistically, children who have hobbies and other life interests and activities, are too busy and interested in life and that experimentation with drugs tends to have less appeal.

The presentation promises to be as enlightening and as inspiring as in previous years -- a memorable talk which children will remember when they get older, and which they will be able to use during their most vulnerable teen and young adult life.

If you have any questions, you can either contact the school, or email the drug awareness provider, direct, at: [drug-ed4children@live.co.uk](mailto:drug-ed4children@live.co.uk).

The CHILDREN Charity  
Charity Registration Number: 1162795

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