



Dear parents,

One of the challenges that parents face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the proliferation of drugs and the ease by which they can be accessed by our children. Being in Istanbul does not make our children safer; drugs are no more difficult to obtain here than they are in any city in most of the world. The penalties for the possession, use and sale of drugs here though may be a little harsher than in some other countries. However, this is not a barrier to unscrupulous drug dealers who will target vulnerable children with promises that their products will help them to 'fit in', will make them more confident, are perfectly safe and are not addictive.

Teachers are not specialists in drug abuse or prevention; we only know what we read in the press or on the internet. We cannot claim that we know more about this than you do and perhaps less than some of you. Just like you, we are extremely concerned. Drug abuse is part of our PSHE programme and we do talk with our children about drugs; not only about the effects of drug taking but also about the penalties of being caught with drugs in Turkey. The consequences are harsh.

As part of our PSHE programme we have invited Clinical Psychologist/Psychotherapist Katerina Tenezou to give a presentation to our children and also to our parents and staff. Both of the presentations will take place on Tuesday 8 May, with the parents and staff presentation taking place at 3:40 pm in the theatre. I would like as many parents as possible to come to this presentation, but parents are not invited to the student presentation in order to allow students to ask questions without possibly being inhibited by the presence of their parents.

The student presentation will be delivered to all students in Years 9, 10 and 12 but we invite all Secondary parents to attend, including those of children in Years 7 and 8. We intend repeating this opportunity annually if possible.

This is a very important matter for all of us and I urge you to come to the presentation and to talk with your children about it afterwards.

Yours faithfully,

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