



10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: dedicated schools link Police officer for West Bromwich**

Here at Phoenix Collegiate, we have always enjoyed a very good working partnership with West Midlands/Sandwell Police and in particular the Officers and PCSO's that come into school to support and work with our students.

West Midlands/Sandwell Police have been working hard to develop their offer to schools, and the good news is we now have a dedicated Schools Link Officer for West Bromwich who will be working with ourselves and George Salter. PC Darby is now in post and we are really looking forward to working with her.

It's really important that as parents/carers you understand that PC Darby is not in post because there are particular problems with crime in any of the schools. She will of course deal with incidents of crime on the rare occasions they occur. However her role will be predominantly working with the safeguarding and pastoral teams to ensure the school and our students are supported where there is risk or vulnerability. The main aim is to reduce incidents of violence, prevent exclusion and support with positive intervention opportunities. She will also be responsible for raising awareness of key issues that affect young people such as knife crime, County Lines and exploitation and will be supporting staff in delivering activities about these and other topics throughout the academic year.

When she is in school, PC Darby will be visible to all our staff and students and will also be available to speak and meet with parents/carers, either in school or at home by appointment. She may also be present at some parents' events, should you wish to meet her there.

Our aim, as a school with police partnership, is to ensure that all our students benefit from having the best education we can give them, and that school is both an enjoyable and safe place for them to be. PC Darby in joining our team will help us in our efforts to achieve that.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me or PC Darby and we'll be only too happy to have a conversation with you.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Smith  
Head teacher