

ANTI – BULLYING DAY FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

Dear Parent/ Carer,

In order to support the annual national campaign to stamp out bullying in schools in the UK, we have organised a series of workshops in which Year 7 students will participate this Friday.

Our local Policeman, PC Ian Smith, the Youth Pastor at the Lighthouse, Pete Skivington, and his team, and Tim Aske from the Matthew Project, will join us to deliver specific sessions about on-line bullying and how we can all support one another to ensure bullying is minimised in our community. Our own Peer Supporters and Student Management Team, as well as Miss Nicol, will be delivering sessions too. The workshops will ensure our Year 7 students understand the meaning of bullying and we will give them strategies to deal with it. The workshops will cover the School's stance on bullying and the actions we take on the rare occasions it occurs in *our* school.

The theme for this year's Anti – Bullying week is, "We choose respect." We will be exploring this theme in assemblies during the following week. The following website gives lots of support to students, schools and parents about bullying: - www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk and can be of real help.



As a School, we have adopted **Several Times On Purpose (STOP)** as the way in which we define bullying. This definition came from our students themselves some years ago and we believe it gives us all something to consider when we are dealing with bullying.

Our Peer Supporters have been involved in drawing up our Anti –Bullying Policy and are very perceptive and considerate when supporting students, particularly when they arrive in the School in Year 7.

No organisation is entirely free from bullying. At Sheringham High School we take allegations very seriously. We will do our best to investigate every incident but we need parents' support to manage allegations. We can only investigate when students tell us. We would encourage you to support your child to talk to us if they are unhappy about relationships with other students. We always take action when we are certain that a student is bullied and always aim to ensure that students are given strategies to manage their relationships, whether they are the victim or the perpetrator. Unfortunately, when bullying issues occur, we may be forced to have difficult conversations with parents and students about their actions. However, we will always keep parents informed and will do our best to implement restorative practices in order for students to move on.

If you are at all concerned about your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Student Manager or Form Tutor in the first instance in order for us to help.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Melhuish

Deputy Headteacher