

# Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

120 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast BT5 7DL Tel: (028) 9040 1184 Fax: (028) 9079 9890 Website: www.knock.co.uk



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

**Recent research shows that children aged 15 – 16 were the fifth most likely in Europe to have had a binge – drinking episode – defined as having had five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the previous month.**

As a school and community we recognise this fact and would like to address this problem. We see education and family partnership working as the key building blocks to equip our young people with the knowledge and skills to make good decisions.

We have been invited to run an Alcohol Awareness Programme with Year 10 students for the sixth year, in partnership with SOS Bus NI. The programme aims 'To reduce the risk of harm by educating young people and their parents on the dangers of alcohol misuse.'

The objectives are as follows:

1. To increase young people's knowledge and understanding of the effects of alcohol consumption on the body, people's lives and wider society.
2. To inform young people how they might deal with a risky situation involving alcohol misuse.
3. To actively engage parents and young people in alcohol education from the home setting.

The Year 10 student workshops will be running on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 within the College, facilitated and delivered by SOS Bus NI's Education Co-ordinator with a team of volunteers and Health Care professionals.

On the evening of **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017, starting at 7:30pm and ending at 8:30pm sharp**, a bite-size workshop will be held for the parents of our Year 10 students in the College Hall. The parent workshop will focus on strengthening communication between the parent and child to advance education on alcohol from the home. As a parent/guardian you will experience some of the interactive material that your son/daughter experiences at the student workshop, you will also have the opportunity to visit the purpose built SOS bus itself (from 6:30pm), uniquely designed for a range of purposes such as on-board healthcare and education.

I encourage all parents to join the College in working together on this important issue. I would be grateful if you would confirm your attendance in advance by filling out the reply slip below and return it to your son/daughter's Tutor. Please note this evening event is for Parents/Guardians only.

Yours sincerely

*D G Mullan*

**Dermot G Mullan**

**Principal**



## Reply Slip

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

- I will be attending on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.  
 I will not be attending on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Parents/Guardians attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the Class Tutor by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Dermot G Mullan MA PGCE Principal