

25th January 2019

Freedom from Abuse

Dear Parent/Carer

At Marriotts we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Consequently, we feel it is important that our students, our staff and our parents, have an understanding of the current national concerns in relation to student safety.

We have therefore invited into school, on the 11th February, a guest speaker called Marilyn Hawes. She works for an organisation known as Freedom from Abuse. Throughout the day she will speak to each year group about the new threats that exist in today's digital world. The presentation covers a number of topics including the impact and harm of cyberbullying, what is predatory behaviour on the internet, peer on peer abuse, sexual exploitation and County Lines. The latter is in reference to a form of criminal exploitation, where gangs and organised crime networks exploit young people to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply the drugs. Hertfordshire is certainly not immune to this practice and neither is Stevenage.

Marilyn has already been in to several local schools to deliver her powerful hard-hitting and informative talks. She will be delivering a version of her talk to parents on the evening of the 11th February, from 6-7.30, for any interested parents. I know from speaking to other local Headteachers that parents and families have found these talks valuable. I would like to strongly encourage parents and carers to attend this session and hear this information so that as parents, carers and school staff we can continue to work together to keep our children safe. Our hall capacity is 300. To ensure you are not disappointed we encourage you to book your seat through Wisepay as soon as possible. Please find details about how to do this below.

1. Go to Wisepay either via the Wisepay App (organisation code 71783585) or via <https://marriotts.herts.sch.uk/wisepay/> and click on where it says 'login in to Wisepay Here'
2. Use your login details and password that you would normally use for trips/lunch top ups.
If you require login details please email: finance@marriotts.herts.sch.uk
3. Select the ticket and events option
4. Click on **Freedom from Abuse Talk**

Terms and Conditions

5. I agree to the Terms and Conditions and confirm that my order details are correct. Yes No
6. Select quantity of tickets required and add to basket using the purchase button
7. Click on confirm booking button. Click yes to agree to the terms and conditions
8. Click on confirm payment to complete the transaction (no charge will be made – the tickets are free)
9. You will receive an email confirmation from Wisepay

Light refreshments will be provided. Due to space shortages and the fact that students will hear the talk during the day, we recommend that only parents attend this event rather than parents and their children.

For further information please visit the website at: www.freedom-abuse.org

I hope to see many of you on 11th February.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher



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