Carrington School
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Dear parents and carers

Helping our young people stay safe is something we share with you as parents and carers. Next week, on Monday and Tuesday, students in Years 8–11 will attend a talk led by Martin Cosser, father of Charlie and founder of **Charlie's Promise**. We would like to explain why we believe this talk matters and let you know about the sensitive nature of its content.

Charlie's Promise raises awareness of knife crime and its devastating consequences. Charlie Cosser died following a knife attack at a house party in 2023. His death was preventable. His family share his story in the hope that other families will never have to experience the same devastation.

A central message is that children should tell a trusted adult when they see something wrong, feel unsafe or are worried about someone else. We want every student to know whom they can approach: a parent or carer, teacher, member of the pastoral team or another trusted adult. If their first conversation does not lead to help, they should keep telling until someone acts. Speaking up is not getting someone into trouble; it is about keeping people safe and could save a life.

We recognise that hearing a father speak about the loss of his child is hard-hitting and may be upsetting, particularly for students affected by bereavement or violence. Our intention is not to frighten students, but to help them recognise risk and understand the importance of seeking help.

This is a real-life tragedy, not a hypothetical situation. Any child could find themselves in an unsafe situation, regardless of their background or where they live. This is never a victim's fault, but it is why honest conversations about safety and speaking up matter for every family.

Please talk with your child before and after the visit, including about which adults they could turn to if something feels wrong. If their experiences may make the talk particularly difficult, please contact us beforehand to discuss appropriate support. Let us know if they need support afterwards too. Pastoral support will be on hand in school. Staff are fully aware of the sensitive content and will be available to listen, offer reassurance and speak with students about any concerns.

Therfield School, The Ashcombe School and Carrington School are part of South East Surrey Schools Educational Trust (SESSET), a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10479401. The registered address is The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1LY

SESSET

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Thank you for working with us to help our young people stay safe, make informed choices and look out for one another.

Yours sincerely,
M. Lockhart
Deputy Headteacher