

Olivia's Story – Young Driver's Safety Educational Package

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your School's Police Officer (SPO) is a regular visitor to your child's school. Along with providing advice and supportive school policing, your Officer also delivers lessons to children in the classroom to help keep children and young people safe.

Young people in Wales (aged 16-24) are disproportionately more likely to be casualties in road accidents. They make up 11% of the population and 22% of all casualties. *During 2020 there had been a total of 5 fatal collisions involving a young driver in the Dyfed-Powys area.

Impaired by alcohol and exceeding the speed limit feature within some of the collisions here in Wales, with other contributory factors such as, 'failed to judge other persons path and speed' and 'distraction' within the vehicle.

Following a tragic road traffic collision in North Wales which cost the life of Olivia Alkir in July 2019, North Wales Police and the Wales Fire Service joined together to fund the development of a new Young Driver's safety input, aimed at years 12 and 13 in schools and Further Education Colleges.

The 'Olivia Project' which comprises of a 15-minute educational film about this incident aims to highlight the consequences of the Fatal 5.

The input also looks to educate young people to be better prepared when driving cars; to understand that some actions have serious consequences and to know the Law relating to driving offences.

The lesson has recently been piloted in a number of schools where teachers felt the topic was handled sensitively. Students also expressed that the lesson was really important and highly relevant to keeping them safe.

One student said: *"Educational, eye opening and a very good lesson. Taught us all to be safe while driving and to reject peer pressure!"*

A Teacher also commented: *"Genuine emotion came through in this film because the people were 'real' and not characters playing a role".*

I write to inform you that your child's school has requested that the local Schools Police Officer deliver the lesson to year 12 and 13 pupils. As the topic deals with a sensitive subject matter, please get in touch with the school if you have information that needs to be shared and discussed prior to the Police Officer's visit.

Regards,



Bethan James

Rheolwr Rhaglen Ysgolion yr Heddlu | Police Schools Programme Manager

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Heddlu Dyfed-Powys Police

*During 2020 there had been a total of 5 fatal collisions involving a young driver in Dyfed Powys. It is important to note that the young driver was not always at fault. In addition to this, there were 4 fatalities in 2020 aged 16 – 24 but one of these was classed as a suicide so would be ruled out from a road death. In 2019 we had 2 fatalities within this age group.

