

## Olivia's Story – Road 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 policing the Officer also delivers lessons to pupils in the classroom. The most important aspect of a SPO's role is to help keep children and young people safe and prevention education is at the heart of the role.

Lessons focus on three main themes: Safety, Substance Misuse and Behaviour. Many lessons and assemblies in the Safety Strand promote Internet safety, safer relationships and children's rights, including the right to be safe.

Young people in Wales (aged 16-24) are disproportionately likely to be casualties in road accidents. They make up 11 per cent of the population but 22 per cent of all casualties. During 2020 there had been a total of 6 fatalities in which a young driver has either contributed or caused a fatal collision in North Wales. This saw an increase from the previous year of 2019. Impaired by alcohol and exceeding the speed limit still feature within some of the collisions with other contributor factors noted being 'failed to judge other persons path and speed' and 'distraction' within the vehicle.

After the tragic RTC which cost the life of Olivia Alkir in July 2019, the School Officers' Team saw how the aftermath of the incident not only affected the school, but the whole community.

North Wales Police and the Wales Fire Service joined together to fund the development of this new Road safety input which is aimed at years 10, 11, 12 and 13 in schools and FE Colleges and Universities.

With the support of the Roads Policing Unit we developed the 'Olivia Project' which comprises of a short 15 minute educational film about this tragic incident with the main aim being to highlight the consequences of the Fatal 5 whilst travelling in a car.

The input also educates young people be able to make the right decisions to stay safe when driving or travelling in 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 across the North Wales Police region, where teachers unanimously felt the topic was handled sensitively. Students also expressed that the lesson was really important and highly relevant to keeping them safe.

One pupil commented:

**"I thought it was very good since it made you think twice before going into a car with an inexperienced driver."**

Another 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:

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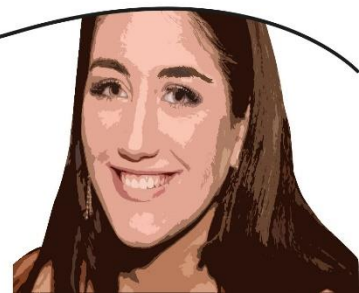


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*Olivia*



**“Genuine emotion came through in this film because the people were ‘real’ and not characters playing a role”.**

I am delighted to let you know that your local SPO will be delivering the lesson to years 10-13 pupils at your school soon. As it deals with a very sensitive subject matter, please get in touch with the school know in advance so that concerns can be discussed prior to the Officer’s visit.

Kind regards

Mannon Williams

Anna Mitchell

School Liaison Coordinators for North Wales Police.

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