Dereham Neatherd High School
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Wednesday 14th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

K9 Deployment visit – Friday 16th January

We are writing to inform you in advance of a planned visit to Dereham Neatherd High School by K9 Deployment, which will take place on Friday 16th January.

We are always keen to ensure that whilst pupils are at school, they are in a positive and safe environment. Like all schools, we work closely with the local police and Children's Services and are aware of the potential threat of County Lines and its prevalence within Norfolk. We are using K9 Deployment's services for the first time as part of raising drug awareness in school, our Society and Ethics curriculum and to be able to allay any concerns that substances have been brought onto the school site.

I'd like to assure you that the use of this service is simply to raise awareness and ensure that the school remains a safe environment. We do not have any concerns about drugs being brought onto the premises.

How the day will run

During this visit, a trained detection dog will check lockers, toilets, bike sheds, vacated classrooms and school grounds for potential illegal items. When a vacated classroom is checked, pupils will be asked to exit the classroom for 5 to 8 minutes and a member of senior staff will accompany the dog and handler into the room. The dog will sniff the interior of the room, including the air around the belongings left behind. At no point will the handler be left alone in a room to ensure that possessions are not touched. Pupils will then be able to re-enter the classroom and continue their lesson as normal.

The dogs will not enter the classroom of a pupil who has an allergy to pet hair or pet dander. In addition to this, we will of course be sensitive to anyone with anxiety or a phobia around dogs. If you have not informed the school of any allergies your child may have, please contact the school office so that we can keep a record of this. If your child has a phobia towards dogs and the school have not previously been informed of this, once again please contact us and we will keep a record so that your child's classrooms are not checked on any future visits.

At the end of the visit, Year 9 pupils will be given an opportunity to learn more about the dog and her handler, and to hear about the important work the dogs are trained to do.

We are informing you of this visit in advance as it is the first time that we have used K9 Deployment's services. In future, you will be informed immediately after the visit, but not before (unless you inform us that your child has a serious phobia of dogs, in which case we will inform you in advance of every visit).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms E Webb
Deputy Head Teacher – Pupil Support, Behaviour and Attendance

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