



**Blackwood Comprehensive School –  
Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon**

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***Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed***

July 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I would like to draw your attention to the matter of substance misuse in the Blackwood community, which is influencing a small proportion of students outside school.

There has been an increasing incidence of substance misuse over the last year, with school age pupils across the Caerphilly LA being exposed to illegal Class A, B and C substances. These substances have been easily accessible to school age pupils and can have a very detrimental impact on their wellbeing and general attitudes to learning.

As a school, we have been very proactive in seeking to address any issues as they arise. We provide support to pupils who have been affected by the consumption of illegal substances outside school, and work very successfully with a range of external agencies to ensure that pupils who need such support receive it. However, we also take a very hard line with any student either in possession of or with intent to supply illegal substances in school. In such cases, we contact the police and issue suitable punitive sanctions.

Our school also has a comprehensive Substance Misuse Policy and our PSE programme is being reviewed to take into consideration the most up to date guidance. We are also working as part of a new pilot programme with the local authority to ensure that our school-based practices and education programmes are the best available.

However, I would ask all parents to be vigilant in monitoring the behaviour of your children over the summer break and into the Autumn Term. Please look out for any erratic behaviour, and inform the school if you have any concerns about your child or any matters relating to substance misuse.

The following websites contain very useful information for both parents and pupils:

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

[www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

Should you have any queries relating to this matter, please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

*RK Pawar*

RK Pawar - Headteacher

