

October 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: October Half term

We are writing to you as a parent or guardian of a young person who attends a school within East Herts and seeking your support in the forthcoming weeks in regards to Halloween and Fireworks.

Regrettably last year there was an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the district from young people, including the misuse of fireworks. There were groups of young people causing a nuisance in public places resulting in several members of the public to feel alarmed and distressed. In addition one Police Community Support Officer sustained a serious burn to their leg after having a lit firework thrown at her.

Those who were responsible for this behaviour were identified and action taken against them. In some areas the ASB was planned and arranged over social media with groups targeting locations and meeting points. Over the past year agencies within the East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP) have been working together to ensure that these incidents do not occur again this year. Some of the planned actions cannot be progressed due to the pandemic and current government restrictions, however it is perhaps even more important that we have your support during these uncertain times to keep our communities safe.

We are therefore asking that you ensure you know where your child / children is/are during the half term break and the days that lead up to and after Halloween. You remind them of the 'rule of six' and advise that **any** young person found to be causing ASB will have robust action taken against them.

We would also ask that if you hear of any planned activity that you report it to Herts Police on 101 or email community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk.

Police will be increasing patrols and also using powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act to take young people home. Information of those responsible for any ASB will be shared with schools and other relevant agencies (such as Housing providers).

Proactive work is also happening with firework retailers and also information will be circulated in communities on how to enjoy the Halloween and Firework season responsibly and safely.

At the time of writing we await advice from Public Health England in respect of trick or treating. We will be publishing any further advice on our CSP Facebook page (East Herts Community Safety Partnership), Police Twitter accounts and East Herts Council's website as it is received.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in keeping East Herts a safe place to live, visit and work, and not allowing the behaviour of the minority to negatively impact upon communities.

Yours faithfully



Chris Hunt
Safer Neighbourhood Inspector
Hertfordshire Constabulary



Julie Pomfrett
Community Safety & ASB Manager
East Herts Council