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## National Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to inform you that Humphrey Perkins is taking part in a government-commissioned initiative, Mentors in Violence Prevention, (MVP). The programme has been researched and implemented by the Violence Reduction Network, (VRN), tasked to reduce incidences of reported violence across the UK.

We have already launched the programme to year 10 students via an assembly. We are now seeking confident, aspirant leaders in year 10, to train as ambassadors and deliver a series of workshops to our year 7 students.

MVP takes the 'active bystander approach' whereby students will be trained by acquiring the specialist knowledge and skills to identify and speak out against bullying, abusive behaviour and violence. On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, volunteers will be taken off time table all day for training.

MVP mentors will focus on a scenario that is relevant to our young people at Humphrey Perkins. MVP does not deal with situations involving strangers, the context is always a scenario with a friend. The programme helps friends to look out for each other, to spot concerning behaviours and to act on them safely, before harm takes place.

One key quote used throughout will be, "friends don't let friends continue with harmful behaviour; friends don't let friends get in trouble." Year 10 trained mentors will then use the bystander toolkit to equip year 7 students with the skills to be good friends. In all of the scenarios, the priority is for the student to keep themselves safe.

An introduction to the programme can be found here.

We are excited about this opportunity and hope to recruit a strong and courageous group of year 10 students, that can genuinely make a positive impact in our school and local community. If you would like any further information please contact us via the school office. Yours faithfully,

Emma Booth Vice Principal Jo Merry Teacher of Mathematics School Anti-Bullying Ambassador











