

Friday 8th February 2019

Freedom from Abuse

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Roebuck Academy we take safeguarding responsibilities seriously. Consequently, we feel it is important that our children, our staff and our parents, have an understanding of the current national and local safety concerns in relation to our children.

We have therefore invited into school, on Tuesday 26th February, a guest speaker called Marilyn Hawes. She works for an organisation known as 'Freedom from Abuse'. Throughout the day she will speak to children in Key Stage 2 about the new threats that exist in today's digital world. The workshops will cover a number of topics, for example:

- \* what is a stranger and what is a friend?
- \* how 'bad' people can access your social media
- \* the impact and harm of cyberbullying,
- \* what is bad behaviour on the internet,
- \* peer on peer abuse,

All content will be sensitively handled and appropriate for the year groups participating.

Our children are growing up in an ever changing digital age, the risks they face need to be recognised and fully understood by children and their parents to ensure they are kept safe. This training is a cost to the school but the safety of our children is a high priority. I am sure you will be highly influenced by the presentation from Marilyn Hawes and I urge you to make every effort to attend regardless of the age of your child.

Marilyn has already been into all local schools to deliver her powerful hard-hitting and informative talks and was at our Secondary school, Thomas Alleyne's only a few weeks ago. She will be delivering a version of her talk to parents on Tuesday 26th February, from 9:00 – 10:30 and also in the evening from 6:00 – 7:30, for interested parents and carers. I know from speaking to other local Headteachers that families have found these talks valuable and they have been in very high demand.

We have a limit to how many places we can offer so to ensure you are not disappointed we encourage you to book your place as soon as possible.

Due to space restrictions and the fact that children will hear the talk during the day, we recommend that only parents attend this event.

The Roebuck Academy, St Margarets, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8RG

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To book a place please contact Jade Sealy in the main office who will reserve this for you. Please inform Jade if you would like the am or pm time. For further information please visit the website at:  
[www.freedom-abuse.org](http://www.freedom-abuse.org)

I hope to see many of you on 26th February.

Yours sincerely

Lynsey Young

Headteacher Roebuck Academy