

Colchester Schools Newsletter

October 2024

Welcome to our Schools Policing update, where you can read information regarding how we police to keep people, property and young people safe.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

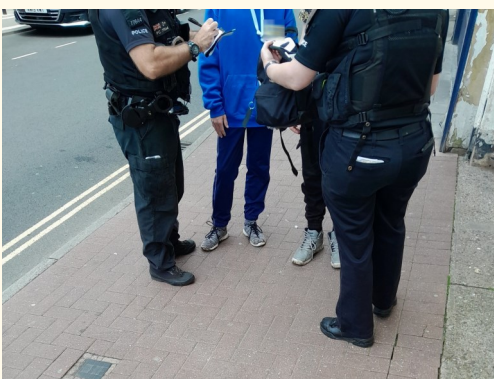
This week is national hate crime awareness week. Hate crime affects many young people in different ways and we often see reports of hate crimes within school settings.

Any criminal offence can be classified as a hate crime if the victim feels they were targeted due to a disability, their race, their religion or faith, sexual orientation or transgender identity. If you commit a hate crime the sentencing guidelines increase from if the crime was committed without they hostility and prejudice shown within a hate crime.



If you are a victim of a hate crime it is important to report these incidents to the police, or if you are not comfortable with reporting to police, we have a number of hate incident reporting centres around Colchester which you can google and attend one of them to receive support.

Roof Running



We are seeing an increase in the amount of incidents reported by businesses in the city centre around young people gaining access to the roof tops and running around on top of the buildings in the city centre. Some of these building are very old and are being damaged which is costing the businesses thousands of pounds to repair. If found to have caused the damage you, or your parents, could be liable to pay for the damages and you could receive a criminal record.

The consequences of doing this do not end at a potential bill for you and your parents and less opportunities for you as you get older, but you could also slip or fall from the rooftops, some of which are around 50 foot high

meaning you are highly unlikely to survive a fall.

We have been out patrolling the key entry points and are working with the council and local businesses to prevent access to these area's however we need parents and young people to speak about the dangers of going up there and ensure they are encouraged not to do it.

Ballin with a Bobby Success



Over the summer holidays we ran our summertime youth engagement piece, Ballin with a Bobby. This is held in partnership with Essex Police, University of Essex and the Essex Rebels.

Over the summer we got the opportunity to meet, talk to and play basketball with over 170 different young people, some of whom were there just to play basketball, some where there to chat to us and others were there for a bit of both.

Throughout the summer we visited various locations all over Colchester bringin professional basketball players with us to lead sessions which saw the final few minutes of the basketball session being led by the police officers talking about topics that affect young people in their communities, listening to the young peoples concerns and offering advice or taking the things they were saying on board.

The summertime tour was brought to an end with a tournament

held in the Essex Sport Arena at the university which was attended by over 100 young people in two groups. The tournament wasn't just about Basketball as the primary school children won points for their teams in a "stranger danger" exercise and the secondary school age group also could win points for their teams in challenges around weapons, crime and sentencing and other topics covered such as stop and search and knife crime. All the young people attending the tournament left with a medal and a free packed lunch.

A big thank you to Active Essex who provided the vital funding to ensure this summer activity was kept free of charge and open to all to attend.

Keep and eye out for Ballin with a bobby returning bigger and better in 2025!!



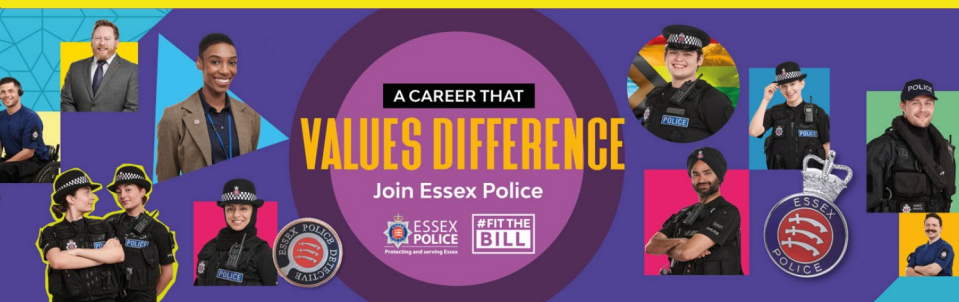
School Talks



As the school term progresses do not be alarmed if you see us within your schools. We are often invited in to take part in activities you have going on within the school or deliver career talks or other types of talks. We like it when you come and talk to us and engage with us so feel free to come and have a conversation with us. The picture to the left is from last term when one of our officers helped a group of business students win a competition and they received amazon vouchers as a prize.



Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: essex.police.uk



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search **#FitTheBill**