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Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Rawle, BA (Hons), MA

04 July 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Pupil Safety Warning - Northgate House (0165-22SRA)

Over recent months, Darlington's Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) has noticed a rise in the number youths attending and, in some instances, gaining access to, the abandoned Northgate House property in the town centre.

Any attempts made by the landlord to prevent youths from accessing the building have so far failed. The building is extremely dangerous having suffered a substantial amount of internal and external damage over the years. **The entire building poses a significant risk to life, and there are many places children could cause themselves serious injury.** The building has no electricity, contains empty lift shafts, a large amount of asbestos and there is broken glass throughout. We also understand the access point being used is extremely dangerous.

The NHPT report that most individuals caught trying to access the building are of secondary school age and attend schools across Darlington. When stopped by officers, the individuals have disclosed that they heard about the building from their friends at school.

Longfield would like to support the NHPT in raising awareness of the issue and ask for support from our parents / carers and school community in ensuring pupils are aware of the dangers posed. This could save lives and prevent criminal records.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to PCSO 7240 Craig Murray via 101 ext. 744450 or by email craig.murray@durham.police.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Rawle
Deputy Headteacher

