

24. Your Credibility with Students and Your Parents

Put yourself in this situation

You have always wanted to host a party for your form at your house. Your parents have always refused, giving noise, alcohol and potential damage as reasons.

You ask again and your parents reluctantly agree but set strict rules. All “guests” by invitation only, there will be no alcohol or smoking and the party will finish at a set time. (Parents are to return at midnight.)

These rules are agreed.

The party is in full swing and going well when in through the door come some fellow students from another form at school / college who were not invited.

They are carrying cans of lager, vodka and are smoking and appear already fairly drunk.

Think.....what are the issues? For you?

What about your credibility with your fellow students?

What about your agreement with your parents?

How do you handle it?

What outcome do you aim for?

Summary

Sometimes how you handle a difficult situation can raise your credibility with all concerned.

40.

Honesty Challenge

Put yourself in this situation

You find a bulky envelope in a telephone kiosk. You open it. It is full of money. You count it. There is £1,000.

You are alone. There are no witnesses. Whatever you do with it will be a secret.

You notice that there is a name on the envelope. You know that it is the name of a known drug dealer, or a local pensioner, or a mother with a larger family.

(N.B. Teacher - you might use these in turn to see the varied responses).

Think.....

What are your choices?

What decisions do you have to make?

What do you do?

Why do you take this action?

Summary

Does knowing who the owner is make any difference?

Should it?

71. Your View. How Serious?

Also consider the consequences of each action.

1	2	3	4	5
Extremely Serious	Very Serious	Serious	Not Very Serious	Trivial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lying • Smoking cigarettes • Behaving badly in class • Being bad mannered • Stealing from parents • Shop lifting 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bunking off” school • Copying another students work • Spraying graffiti • Damaging property • Cheating in a test 	

If word got around the school about you being involved in one of the above, which one would make you most embarrassed?

Summary

The views we form of good or bad behaviour, and the action we take about it, are some of the ways by which people judge us.

The court heard that it was Jake's idea to steal the car. He is 15 years old. Damien went along with it. He is 16. They were soon spotted by the police helicopter and a chase began. Jake had only driven a car once before and that was on a piece of waste ground on his estate.

He was aware of the 'copter overhead, the blue lights gaining on him and Damien screaming at him. He ripped the car through the gears and gripped the wheel, white knuckle tight. At the point where the car hit the central reservation the police clocked the speed at 83 m.p.h. There was no way those waiting at the bus stop could possibly escape as the car overturned and hurtled towards them.

Damien was on life support for a week but didn't pull through.

Jake was in hospital for 6 weeks and now will be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Those waiting at the bus stop were not so lucky – the family of three were buried together.

Jake was charged with TWOC – (Taking Without Consent.) and Dangerous Driving. The maximum sentence for a first offence is six months in youth custody. This was the sentence of the court.

Think and talk about these issues.

Why do you think Jake and Damien took the car?

Do you think they considered the possible outcome?

In view of the deaths, and devastation caused, do you think Jake's sentence was appropriate?

Summary

Consequences of our actions sometimes do not enter our heads until it's too late.

“Sick Yobs Make Misery for OAP”

This genuine headline appeared in a local paper, reporting how a pensioner aged 76 was being subjected to behaviour from youths he found terrifying. “They had shouted obscenities and abuse at him, thrown stones at his windows (often breaking them) and kicked his door.” This, the report said, 15 or so youths did several times a day. The report went on to say how the pensioner who was totally blind in one eye and partially blind in the other was absolutely terrorised by the attacks and was begging the council to relocate him. In the meantime the report said the old gentleman frequently sits and sobs.

Other people on the same estate said that they had suffered in the same way from the same youths.

What are the issues: For the pensioner?

The estate?

The youths?

Moving the old gentleman to new accommodation will solve the problem for him but what about the cause of the problem - the youths?

What happens about them?

Why do they do what they do?

Summary

Sometimes you can solve an immediate issue but not the underlying problem.