



Police praise students in 'knife arch' safety check

Police were full of praise for Havering Sixth Form College students when they recently set up a 'Knife Arch' at the entrance to the building in Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch.

Nothing of any concern was found at all by officers who were very impressed by the mature and sensible attitude of students.

Police said they answered many relevant questions about safety issues and why knife arches are used and every single student reacted in a calm and respectful manner.

John Davis, Assistant Principle for Student Services, said he had arranged the one-day arch and bag search as part of ongoing efforts to keep the College a very safe place.

He added: "Student feedback indicates that we are a College in which they feel very safe but that does not mean we can afford to be complacent. The safeguarding of our students and staff is our number one priority and we saw this first use of the arch mainly as an opportunity to raise awareness among students about carrying certain items and to show how seriously we take the issue of safety at the College.

"It was not arranged in response to any specific incident and the fact that nothing of any concern was found on the day is a tremendous reflection on our students. We are very proud of the results and all our students should be too."

Knife arches are similar to the machines used at airports which screen passengers for metal items and possible weapons as they go through check-in. They are used randomly at stations, schools, colleges and other public buildings throughout the country.