



# The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7HL

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October 2019

Headteacher: Edward Gaynor

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As part of their PSHE programme for drop down days, Year 10, 11 and Sixth form students will be taking part in a gambling and addiction assembly. The session will give a motivational and hard-hitting first hand talk about the consequences of gambling from the company Epic Risk Management.

*“We believe that targeting the education sector around safer gambling and gaming is so important and schools should be taking this more and more seriously and can no longer ignore this pressing issue.*

*With 500,000 children, aged between 11-15, gambling weekly, and young people aged 16 to 23 three times more likely to develop a gambling problem, problem gambling amongst young people is a growing concern. In a digital age where 96% of our children and young people are thought to own a smartphone, gambling has never been more accessible to young people, making it the UK’s fastest growing societal issue faced by our younger generation.*

*With links to low attainment, truancy, poor mental health, anti-social behaviour and, in the extreme, criminal convictions or suicide, problem gambling among young people is not something we can ignore and longer.*

*EPIC is passionate about investing in young people; our bespoke in-school awareness sessions use impactful, real life stories and interactive data capture to offer students advice surrounding safer gambling, encouraging pupils to foster informed ideas.*

*EPIC train pupils to recognise signs of problem gambling through sharing lived experience and real-life stories. Pupils will be educated on awareness around the prevalence of gambling, consequences of a negative relationship with gambling, how to recognise signs in themselves and other people and signposting for help.”*

Students will be off timetable for an hour on Wednesday 16 October to participate in the assembly.

Group	Period
Year 10	Period 1 main hall
Year 11 & Sixth Form	Period 2 main hall



*Prepared for learning, prepared for life*



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If you would like to discuss the programme of study with us further, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us on email [c.keane@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:c.keane@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)/  
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Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Keane, Mrs D Cansick & Mr J Stevenson

PSHE Coordinator, Head of Year 10 & Head of Year 11



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