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## Big Bang Fair 11-14 March 2020

Date: 28/02/2020

To ensure that this year's Big Bang Fair continues to be the safe, enjoyable and educational success that it has been in previous years, we require your assistance and cooperation.

The Big Bang Fair is a marvellous opportunity for your students to experience, learn, and develop new ideas. Last year although the vast majority of students that attended the fair were very well behaved, there were a very small number of students that behaved poorly and although these incidents were resolved, it was after intervention by police and security.

Last year at other student centred events, random searches of student's property were undertaken as they entered the NEC site. This was conducted proportionately to prevent prohibited articles entering the site. Many students had the maturity to appreciate this but some students and astonishingly their supervisors, reacted with hostility. At this year's Big Bang Fair, we are again working hard to ensure that you and your students all enjoy the event with a maximum amount of freedom and a minimum of security restrictions. To ensure you and your students can get the most out of your visit we trust that you will undertake the following steps to maximise their safety and security:

- Advise your students that and staff that they may be expected to pass through a search point and their entry to the site is on this basis. This can consist of a search arch, drugs dog and a security officer who will arbitrarily search property. A refusal to be searched or those found to be in possession of prohibited articles will be refused entry to the site and/or dealt with by the police.
- Please ask students to carry identification and a contact number for your school, college or academy. In the event of an issue, this speeds up the process of identification and ensures you can be contacted and notified.
- For the safety and welfare of all visitors, sharp edged items, non-prescribed drugs or alcohol are not permitted and those students found in possession of these, will have them seized and will be refused entry to the site and dealt with by the police.
- For everyone's benefit, a fair contract of behaviour is maintained on the site. To maintain your safety and security we need your students and staff to adopt a responsible behaviour and follow the directions of the police and security staff when called upon to do so. Any individual or group of students whose actions fall below this will be escorted off site.

Please impress this upon your students before embarking on the journey to prevent issues later.

We welcome you to what will be another immensely successful and educational Big Bang Fair and we trust your staff and your students will conduct themselves in a manner that ensures they all enjoy their visit.

Yours sincerely

PC 5941 David Price  
NEC Police Unit  
West Midlands Police

