



**GETTING COURT**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
A DRINKS RECEPTION  
AND TALKS  
AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
ST CROSS BUILDING, ST CROSS ROAD, OX1 3UL  
ON  
TUESDAY, 4 JUNE AT  
5.30 P.M TO 7.30 P.M.  
BY  
GETTING COURT, OXFORD**

**Drug trafficking offences in Oxfordshire have increased by 51% in the past 2 years and this increase is attributable to the phenomenon of “County Lines”. This involves urban gangs moving class A drugs and cash between inner city hubs and provincial areas, recruiting young people to sell drugs in rural areas. The increase in drugs crime is also importing another scourge to Oxfordshire – knife crime. As Simon Harding, professor of criminology at the University of West London said: “The way it used to work was that they would send up lads from London but they stood out like a sore thumb. Now they have switched to recruiting local people. Often people in these areas don’t realise that these London boys play by different rules and if they threaten to stab you, they will do – that is the end of it.”**

### **PROGRAMME**

- 5.30** Event starts, welcome drink
- 6.00** Talk by the Honorary Recorder of Oxford, HH Judge Ian Pringle Q.C. on knife crime
- 6.10** Talk by HH Judge Peter Ross on County Lines
- 6.20** Talk by Cheryl West, headteacher of Meadowbrook College, Abingdon
- 6.30** Talk by a student
- 7.15** Event finishes

**We are extremely fortunate that two of our Oxford judges, HH Judge Ian Pringle QC, the Honorary Recorder of Oxford and HH Judge Peter Ross have agreed to give us an insight into these two major areas of concern. With the experience they have, they will be able to tell us of the seriousness of the threat, and ways to combat it. In particular, they may be able to provide some clues as to how to spot any signs of involvement in the county lines phenomenon.**

**The evening is being organised by Getting Court, Oxford, a charity which was set up 4 years ago to introduce students aged 13 and upwards to the Crown Court and for them to see justice being done. Getting Court started by taking groups of about 15 students to**



**Court once a month, and the popularity of the scheme is such that we now have 2 sessions per week, normally on Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

**The purpose of Getting Court is threefold:**

- **First, by visiting Court young people can see for themselves that “the authorities” – that is the police, the prison and court officers, the probation services and the lawyers and judges serve their communities by protecting them;**
- **Second, it may be that some of the pupils will think that a career in the court service, the law or the police might be for them;**
- **Third, the experience of seeing a “live” court case might help young people make the right decisions before finding themselves the wrong side of the line.**

**These are some comments about Getting Court from those who have been involved:**

- **What I enjoyed most about my visit was when the man accused of biting another guy’s ear off had a little tantrum and stormed out, it was stupid of him because the moment he did that everyone knew he was guilty.**
- *What I learned from the trip to Crown Court was do not be tempted to do drugs or other crimes and focus on staying out of trouble.*
- **I think that the man who broke into hotels and broke into the nurse’s locker and stole her car keys and money should have had a longer sentence ...**
- *Have learnt not to do drugs because it makes you look older than you are and it can ruin your life. I felt a bit sorry for him because he needs help.*
- **The funny bit about the trip was when you told us that once someone tried to run out of court and the judge rucker tackled him, I found that really funny.**
- *If I think about your job it must be quite hard because if you sentence someone to a big sentence his or her family are watching and they are crying it must be hard to sentence them.*
- **Students are fascinated to see into a world that could become part of their reality. ‘Getting Court’ is a fantastic opportunity and a cautionary tale for us all. We can make a difference!**  
**Ms. S. Clinch, Gosford Hill School**



**GETTING COURT**

**Getting Court is funded by donations which are held and managed by the Oxfordshire Community Foundation, registered charity number 1151621. If you wish to donate to Getting Court please fill in details below and send to: Getting Court, c/o The Oxfordshire Community Foundation, 3 Woodin's Way, Oxford OX1 1HD or pay direct to account number 06209475, sort code 12-20-26, referenced Getting Court.**

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