



Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are writing to you from the BBC, to share the exciting news that we are filming a documentary series at Beacon Hill Academy from the start of September through to the Summer Term.

The documentary is a follow up to a previous BBC2 series called 'Don't Exclude Me', which followed Marie Gentles as she helped pupils and teachers address challenging behaviour in a primary school in Southend. The previous series can be viewed here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001046t>

Marie works with schools across the UK, to help children and young people engage positively with the education system. She was previously the Headteacher of an Outstanding Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and is a Behavioural Advisor for the Department of Education. In 2020, Marie was recognised for her outstanding services to education by the award of an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

In this second series Marie will be bringing her expertise to the teachers, staff, parents and learners at Beacon Hill and focus on a wide range of issues from anxiety, mental health, special educational needs and behaviour. To reflect the change in focus, this series is unlikely to be called 'Don't Exclude Me' again. A new title has not yet been chosen but is likely to refer to growing up and / or being a teenager.

We will have a small crew of BBC producers working and filming around the school from September. The focus will be a select number of learners who have been contacted separately, but there will be general filming around the school to capture school life.

Anyone we'd like to feature directly - for instance the learners we are following and their close friends - will be spoken to directly by the producers on the ground. If the learner is happy to be involved we will contact their parents or carers for their permission.

However, when we are generally filming around the school there will be cases where we capture footage of other learners. For instance, within classrooms, corridors, the dinner halls etc. In these cases, we will not be able to contact everyone directly for permission to use the footage - so you will need to let the school know if you do not wish your learner to be featured. You can do this by emailing the school at helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk. If there is a safeguarding reason a learner should not appear, then the school will ensure the crew is aware of this. This information will be protected by GDPR regulations and will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.

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The nature of filming means we are likely to inadvertently capture some footage which includes learners who do not wish to appear in the series. Please rest assured that any footage identifying non-consenting learners will not be broadcast. We have a number of protocols and checks in place to ensure these learners are protected, and as a final safeguard the school will view the series before broadcast to ensure no one is missed.

If you would like to contact the BBC team directly then please email school.production@bbc.co.uk. Our team leaders in the school will be Carla Wright and Cath Boggan. We are more than happy to answer any questions or concerns, and to speak to anyone who would like to know more. We are keen to understand the unique challenges facing learners today, so would really appreciate any thoughts or ideas on this.

The BBC shares the school's priority for safeguarding. As such, all members of the documentary team have an advanced DBS check in place and undergo training on working with children and young people.

We are really grateful to the staff and learners at Beacon Hill for working with us on this series, and look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Radford', on a light yellow background.

MIKE RADFORD

Executive Producer
BBC Current Affairs