

THE FATAL FOUR



Drink & Drugs Mobile Phones Speeding NO Seatbelts

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Educational Theme 2

Victim Awareness

Aims

To aid in the reduction of the number of young people killed and seriously injured on UK roads in road traffic collisions (RTC's) by:

- Promoting understanding of the Fatal Four causes of RTCs
- Giving young people the knowledge to encourage them to drive safely in the future
- Giving young people the confidence to speak out when they are in a vehicle which is being driven in an unsafe manner

Objectives

By the end of the sessions students will:

- Understand the effects of a fatal RTC on the victim's family and friends
- Understand the effects of a fatal RTC on the wider community

Linked Resources:

1. Video clip: **Mandie Brown Interview:** 23:42 (18 minutes)
2. Video clip: **Firefighter Interview:** 33:52 (2 minutes)
3. PDF download: **Supplement 3**

Suggested Lesson Plan 1 : Victim Awareness/Empathy

Resources linked to Suggested Lesson Plan 1:

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Introduction:

In the early hours (6.30am) of Saturday 22 October 2011 Michael York took the decision to drive home from Leicester City Centre (John Lewis Car Park) after a 13 hour drinking binge. He was not alone that night; three of his best friends were with him. All got into the car knowing that Michael was over the drink drive limit.

Watch video clip: **Mandie Brown Interview**

Possible questions and discussion points:

- How was Mandie's body language throughout her interview, including the introduction clip? What signs was she displaying, eg voice tone, hand movements, facial features?
- This interview took place two years after the incident. How do the students think Mandie found the anniversary of the death of Matthew, easier or harder than the first anniversary, and why?
(Mandie has struggled with the second anniversary, and found it far harder than the first and cannot understand the reasons for this.)
- How do the students think Matthew's two brothers Jack and Ben are coping with the loss of their older brother?
(Both of Mandie's other two sons are still finding it hard to cope with the loss of their big brother.)
- Mandie lost her sister when she was young. Do you think this helped her cope with the loss of her son?
(Nothing prepares you for the loss of one of your children, the memories come back.)
- Mandie was going to call in on her son the day before but did not. How do you think she feels now, as it would have been the last time she would have seen him before his death?
- Mandie mentions that you should never leave anybody on an argument as you never know what's going to happen. Do the students think this is a true statement? Have they ever left home after an argument with their parents, brothers or sisters?

- Does time heal?
(Mandie does not think so; she thinks that you just find a way of coping with the symptoms.)
- What do the students think Mandie would have said to Matthew about getting into a car with a drunk driver?
- What do they think Matthews reply would have been?
(I am alright Mum, I am indestructible)
- Why do you think they all got into the car that night knowing the driver was drunk?
(Habit; used to doing it; 'not going to happen to me' attitude; peer pressure)
- Why did none of them speak up and say no?
(Not-confident, nervous, did not want to look weak, whimp)
- What do the students think would happen if one person did speak up?
(The others would probably have agreed. If you feel uncomfortable in a car then it's almost certain that all the other passengers feel the same.)
- What would have been Michael's friends' options to get home if Michael hadn't driven?
- If the students were parents and their child rang at 04:00 in the morning for them to pick them up as their driver was drunk, what would their response be?
- What does Mandie think about Michael speaking out about his actions and the consequences?
(He's brave to put himself through this, has shown a great deal of remorse from the day the accident happened.)
- How do the students think Mandie feels about Michael? Has she been able to forgive him?
(Total forgiveness)
- If it happened to them would they feel the same?
- How do you think Mandie was informed of the death of Matthew?
(Normally the police knock on your door and inform you of the death. Mandie and Matthew's dad were at a conference in Birmingham and the Police could not locate them. Mandie's son received a text message saying 'Sorry to hear about your brother'. The accident was big news around the villages in their area that morning, due to social media. Everyone knew before the family.)

- Is social media good or bad?
- Who else was affected by the deaths?
(All involved in the accident, family, friends, school friends, work colleagues, community, Emergency Service workers.)

Watch video clip: **Firefighter Interview**

Possible questions and discussion points:

- The firefighter said that when he approached the car the victim was 'irate'. Why might this be?
(This is a typical symptom of a head injury – victims are often very aggressive)
- How do the students think the firefighter felt when he attended this incident?
- Consider how many people were involved in attending the incident. Which emergency services were represented?
- List some of the financial implications of this incident to the taxpayers.
(eg Attendance of emergency services, clearing up, health care for victims, criminal justice costs, cost of imprisoning someone).
- Do the students think that people who cause accidents should pay a fee for the attendance of emergency services and hospital treatment?