When young people start upper secondary school, it is tradition for many to have some kind of kick-off, initiation event or other party. We want to alert you as a parent to the risks associated with this and inform you of where to turn if you need support and assistance.

Kick-offs, initiations and other parties are usually arranged by older students at the school, without the school itself being involved. These can take place in a park during the afternoon and early evening or at a nightclub later in the evening. Large quantities of alcohol and drugs may be available to the young people on these occasions. Games that many perceive as degrading can also be used as a way for the older crowd to initiate the younger ones. In previous years, several young people have ended up in the emergency ward with alcohol poisoning and life-threatening injuries.

Young people who drink alcohol and use drugs do so for a variety of reasons. Often, it is the feeling of community and peer pressure that influence them to a great extent.

Using drugs is illegal and always involves risks. The risk of being robbed or being the victim of violent crime, sexual assault or accidents increases significantly when a young person drinks alcohol and/or uses drugs.

It is easy for young people to get their hands on alcohol and drugs, and many have the number of a supplier who can provide them with alcohol and in some cases drugs. If you see anyone supplying alcohol or drugs to young people, call the Police!

Parents’ attitudes and approaches – you are the most important person!
As a parent, you are the most important person in your child’s life, and it is you as a parent who has the greatest opportunity to influence your child. Parents cannot teach their child the way in which to drink alcohol by allowing them to drink it at home; the only thing you are teaching them is to drink alcohol. Surveys show that young people who have parents with a positive attitude towards letting them drink at home are those who get drunk more often than others. A restrictive approach to alcohol makes a difference.

Information and advice to you as a parent:

- It is a punishable offence to buy alcohol for or give alcohol to young people under the age of 20.
- Talk to your child about alcohol and drugs. Not all young people drink alcohol or use drugs; what attitude does your child have?
- Talk to other parents – share information and support each other.
- By accompanying your child to where the social event will take place, staying in touch during the afternoon/evening and collecting them afterwards, you make sure that your child comes home safe and sound.
- When you get information about where a kick-off, initiation event or party in a public place is to be held, we would be grateful if you directed your tip to Socialarbetare för ungdomar (Social Workers for Young People) and the Police. A tip from you would be very helpful in our preventive work and help ensure the highest possible safety and security for your child.

www.malmo.se/riskhelger
www.polisen.se
The Police are grateful for tips on anyone illegally supplying alcohol, the sale and use of drugs, or where young people are gathering for kick-offs, initiations and parties. You can call anonymously!
114 14 – Choose option 2 for the tip hotline.

www.malmo.se/socialarbetareforungdomar
Socialarbetare för ungdomar (Social Workers for Young People) are social workers involved in outreach and preventive work with young people ages 12–21 in central Malmö. As a parent, you can call here with questions regarding young people’s situation in Malmö, to give a tip about where young people are gathering for kick-offs, initiations and parties, or if you have concerns about your own child.
+46 (0)40-34 39 95 or +46 (0)70-600 35 36

www.malmo.se
Social services in your city district, +46 (0)40-34 10 00.

www.malmo.se/skolor
Student health at your child’s school, +46 (0)40-34 10 00.

www.malmo.se/mariamalmo
Maria Malmö is an outpatient clinic for people under the age of 25 who have problems with alcohol or drugs, and their relatives. Please call here with questions about alcohol and drugs.
+46 (0)40-33 71 70

www.malmo.se/faltgruppencentrum
Fältgruppen Malmö is part of the municipal leisure activities in Malmö City and does outreach work with young people aged 13–17.
+46 (0)40-34 25 39

www.tänkom.nu
The Swedish National Institution of Public Health in cooperation with the Police, Systembolaget, IOGT-NTO and the county administrative boards and municipalities of Sweden. Here you will find facts, tips and arguments as support.

www.can.se
The Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

www.tonarsparloren.se
The Teenage Phrasebook – young people and alcohol Q&A.