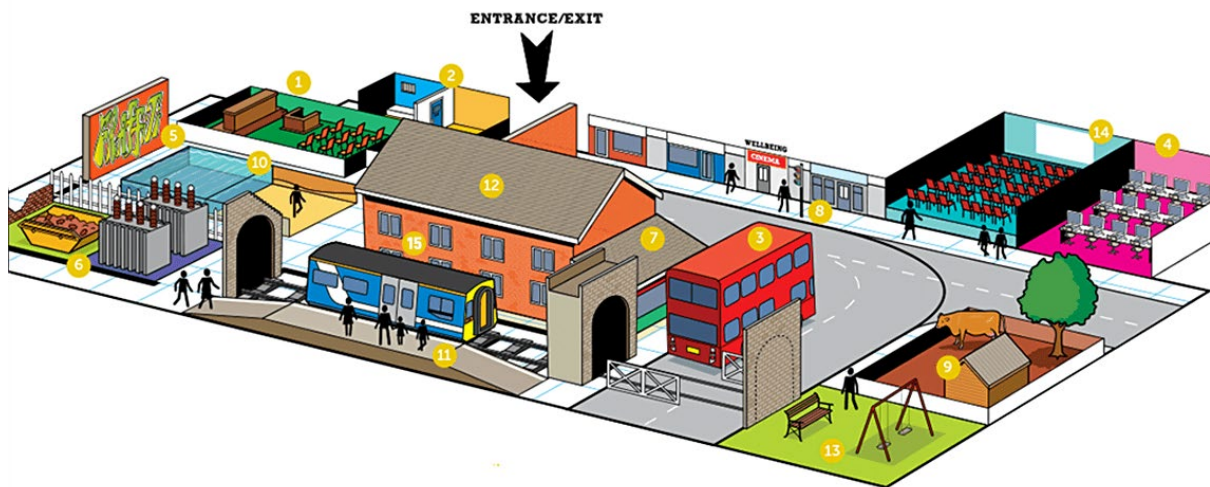




On Tuesday 16th December, we took the students from Hereford School to the Skillzone in Tuffley, Gloucestershire.



Skillzone has 15 zones in a life-size village, contained in an easily- accessible, wheelchair-friendly warehouse. The village allows you to learn about making safer choices in different scenarios whether that is at home, while travelling or taking part in activities.

We explored a full-size house, looking at how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire. Shocking for most of us was the bedroom that had burned for only 7 minutes but was black and destroyed. With Christmas coming up, the video of what happens to some lithium batteries on e-scooters was timely. We also got to practise making 999 calls.

Based on a real double decker bus, we boarded the bus and found a seat. However, the learning started even before we got on the bus, looking at timetables and bus stops. We discussed what you can do if someone on the bus makes you feel unsafe.

The dark alleyway highlighted the importance of taking the safest route and avoiding situations where we may become vulnerable. We experienced the sights and smells of a realistic alley.

We went to the shoreline and looked at dangers from rivers and at the beach.

The most impactful scenario was that of the County Lines and how you can get 'sucked into it' by doing someone what you think is just a favour.

Experiencing and talking about moments like these will hopefully help us be less vulnerable and make safer decisions in the future.