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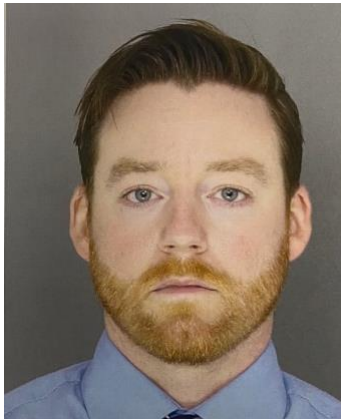
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEACHER ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP IN 2014-2015 WITH GERMANTOWN ACADEMY STUDENT



MICHAEL CHEATLE

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 1, 2020) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Whitemarsh Township Police Chief Christopher P. Ward announce the arrest of Michael Cheatle, 37, of Chester Springs, Pa., on charges of Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact With a Minor/Sexual Offenses, Corruption of a Minor and Endangering the Welfare of a Child related to a sexual relationship with a female student at Germantown Academy, where the defendant was employed as a teacher at the time.

On July 29, 2020, a woman reported to Whitemarsh Township Police that in 2014 at the end of her 11th grade year at Germantown Academy in Ft. Washington, she and her first-year teacher Cheatle began an 18-month intimate relationship. An investigation was launched that determined through text messages, emails and other evidence that the defendant had engaged in sexual behavior with the minor student both inside and outside of Germantown Academy. Cheatle resigned his teaching position at the school on Sept. 1, 2020. Germantown Academy officials have been fully cooperative with the investigation.

Cheatle was arraigned today before Magisterial District Judge Deborah Lukens, who set bail at \$100,000 unsecured, along with the condition that the defendant not have any contact with children other than his own. Cheatle was released on his own

recognizance. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Oct. 14, 2020 before Judge Lukens. Anyone with information regarding any inappropriate encounters with the defendant is encouraged to contact Whitmarsh Township Police at 610-825-6530.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Beeson, who is assigned to the Family Protection Unit.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.