TDMS

E-Safety

Dear Parents/Carers

We are always alert to risks that are emerging on the internet and through technology and we work hard to teach students about E-Safety in age appropriate ways. This knowledge is important as they make more use of technology and explore what is available to them or even test the boundaries. We constantly review this provision to keep up to date with new risks and opportunities.

We recognise the importance of the internet as an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. Access to the internet is therefore an entitlement for students who show a responsible and mature approach to its use. Students will use the internet outside of school and part of our responsibility is to educate them in safe use of technology. The breadth of issues classified within e-safety is considerable, but the three areas of risk we prioritise when talking to students are as follows:

- Content (being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material, extremist propaganda or any site promoting radicalisation)
  Common risks we address with students within content focus on exposure to inappropriate content, including online pornography, ignoring age ratings in games (exposure to violence associated with often racist language) and substance abuse. We also focus on lifestyle websites, for example pro-anorexia/ self-harm/ suicide sites, and so-called "hate sites". Equally, we believe that it is important that students are taught to check the authenticity and accuracy of any online content they look at.

- Contact (being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users)
  Dangers we address with students here include grooming, all forms of cyber-bullying, as well as identity theft (including so-called "frape", the hacking of Facebook profiles) and password security.

- Conduct (personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes harm). Within this area, students are taught about privacy issues, including disclosure of personal information, as well as digital footprint and online reputation. They are also taught about the need to consider health and well-being, where necessary limiting the amount of time spent online (internet or gaming). Equally, we believe it is important that students are educated about the dangers of sending or receiving personally intimate images, and of infringing music and film copyright laws.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the risks of students watching inappropriate content on TV at a young age. This is now more challenging with families having open access to streaming services such as Netflix, with young students accessing programmes like "Squid Games." This is rated a 15 age programme and contains a lot of violent content. This link to Ofcom is a good source of further information. Advice guides for parents - Ofcom.

Please contact me if we can support in any further way,

Yours sincerely

[signature]

Fiona Lovecy

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