

Wednesday, 04 May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Online safety

This week we received a report relating to the sharing of inappropriate images online. This incident happened whilst students were at home over the weekend, and the images were shared via their personal devices using Snapchat. The images were shared amongst students over the weekend and reported to adults on school on their return to school on the following Monday.

We immediately reported this incident to the police and social services, as sharing or saving these images is against the law. We are working with statutory agencies to ensure that the students directly involved are well supported. We have been focusing on online safety and cyberbullying as topics in our PHSE lessons this term to ensure that the wider student population are well educated about the dangers of using the internet and sharing content. We will continue to ensure that our systems and practices remain robust and continue to keep our students safe. We are also continuing to closely monitor the use of IT via our SENSO IT security filters, which flags up any concerning online behaviour happening in school.

We would encourage all parents to be vigilant and monitor the content and materials your child is accessing or sharing online, or on social media. Please monitor your child's use of social media carefully. It is advisable that you have their passwords and account details so that you are able to view content they may be distributing. We would urge you to check your child's contributions to chats on Whatsapp, Snapchat and Discord frequently. We would also advise you to check with your internet service provider to ensure that appropriate parental filters and monitoring is active. If your child receives any inappropriate content whilst accessing the internet or social media, please report it directly to CEOP <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>. A link allowing reporting of inappropriate content can also be found on most websites or social media landing pages. Parents can also report issues to the police via 111. Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy for support with these issues as we are always on hand to signpost students and families to appropriate services, and follow up on any issues relating to our students.

If you would like to find out more about online safety, please access the recommended links below:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI6sXo1bys9gIVtGLmCh2U0QXkEAAYASAAEgIC8fD_BwE
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Kind regards



Ms Banton
Vice Principal