

Re: Pastoral Period, Monday 6th November 2017

Dear Parent,

During a Pastoral lesson that took place in school this morning, all pupils were involved in a session based around **E-safety** and keeping themselves safe in their use of electronic devices, specifically in their use of social networking.

This included a session, led by tutors, that was differentiated for each year group to make the content as age-appropriate as possible. The focus of this session was centred on raising awareness of some of the risks that need to be understood when using social media and in helping pupils understand how they can keep themselves safe.

Pupils also attended an assembly which focused on our own approach to e-safety in school, as outlined in our 'Acceptable Use' policy, which all pupils have signed up to. This included a reminder of appropriate usage of technology in school, our insistence on mobile phones not being in use during the school day and an overview of how pupils' work on computers can be monitored.

To support the sessions, a number of useful web-based resources and film clips were used and these will be uploaded to our school website in the next few days to be accessed via Parents/e-safety.

In the meantime, I would highly recommend familiarising yourselves with the 'Thinkuknow' website which is run by CEOPS (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency), <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>. This contains an excellent range of resources for both parents and pupils, as well as signposting towards further help or support and providing advice on how to report concerns on inappropriate messages or content that may be received by a young person. Other useful sites are also hosted by the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and Kidpower: <https://www.kidpower.org/>

Lastly, I would encourage you to talk to your child about their reflections on the pastoral session this morning and do all you can to support your own child in keeping safe in the online world. As our pupils were reminded today, whilst technology has great benefits, it can also increase their own vulnerabilities and they need to remain aware of the dangers that it can bring.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Morland

Senior Assistant Headteacher/Head of Key Stage 4