

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The internet and social media offer our young people many amazing opportunities and can when used safely and effectively enhance their learning. However, when used inappropriately the use of social media and internet can be dangerous. Unfortunately over the past couple of weeks it has again come to my attention that some of our young people in Year 9 are using social media and the internet inappropriately. This has included posting sexual images of themselves or others, sharing personal and sensitive information about their lives and mental health, sharing videos of an inappropriate nature including animal abuse, chatting with people they do not know, and sending hurtful messages to each other. Within school I will be working closely with our Police Liaison Officer and Community Support Officer, who will be coming in to lead an assembly, lessons, and where necessary small group discussion, to ensure that students are educated in the appropriate use of the internet and social media, as well as the dangers and implications of negative usage. The vast majority of our young people use social media effectively and safely, so we do not wish to worry or scare our pupils, but it is important that they are aware of what can happen if they are not proactive in being safe online.

It is helpful for students to hear the same message on internet safety from school and home, so please can you regularly check your child's social media usage, and discuss with them about staying safe online. Miss Scaum recently sent out some internet safety advice, so I would recommend looking over that correspondence again.

I am sure you will be aware that the school is currently supporting the idea of a Digital Detox week; I would highly recommend encouraging your child to use social media a little less this week. I certainly will be trying to do this myself, and whilst I am sure it will prove at times a difficult experience, I am sure some time away from a screen will do us all some good.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with Year 9, it is appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further support or help.

Kind regards

Miss Day  
Senior Head of Year

