

21 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that towards the end of last term we had two separate significant incidents. One involved a child bringing knives onto site. A second child committed a crime which involved sharing indecent images of another pupil. In both cases the students were engaged in online activities that went un-monitored by home for a significant period of time.

On Tuesday I spoke to KS3 students about the two incidents and included in the talk:

- An outline of the poor choices that the individuals made.
- The risks that were taken online over a period of time.
- The consequences that will result for any one making these choices at their age, including what it means to commit a crime.
- What the school is going to do to help them understand how to stay safe online and make positive choices and seek help when problems occur.

As part of our strategy to ensure these events do not happen again, we have planned a series of educational events to help all children understand the consequences and protect themselves against risk, these include:

- A knife and gangs talk by the police which will take place on 22 June 2022.
- An altered PSHE programme to include 6 lessons this half term based around internet safety.
- We are currently securing a speaker to talk to parents this term about how to stay safe online. We would encourage you all to attend.

Why did you not inform us of these events before Easter?

All parents of children involved were informed, a public announcement was not appropriate or legal – while the school followed its process of exclusion and the crime was being investigated. Please be reassured if we thought your child was at risk we would have involved you.

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Are children at risk now?

We would stress, any child that has un-regulated use of internet is at risk to pornographic material and potential access to unknown predators. Please can we ask that you spend time monitoring your child's internet use. The link here to CEOPs is incredibly helpful in giving you guidance on how to do this [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk).

Can I also stress that the children involved need an opportunity to recover from their poor choices, I am hoping this letter provides the details you need as a Parent/Carer, to understand what occurred and what the school is doing about this.

We are all aware our children have to operate in a much more 'adult world' than the one we grew up in, and where they do make poor choices, these are recorded for eternity online.

Thank you for your support
Yours sincerely



Jo Gant
Headteacher

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