

NMB/P:Yr7Dir/SocialMedia
19 January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

RE: PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM RISK IN THEIR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

It has been brought to our attention that there has recently been a significant increase nationally in the number of young people engaging in cyber bullying using social media (eg. Whatsapp, Instagram, Facebook).

We have provided information regarding this in PSHEE lessons and assemblies to make students aware of these risks and to alert them as to how they can keep themselves safe. We have also asked the police to come in and speak to some assemblies this academic year as we have been that concerned about ensuring that our students really take these messages seriously.

We urge you to do all you can to make yourself aware of your child's internet use. We know that young people are increasingly using technology not only to stay in touch, but also to explore their sexuality and to push the boundaries regarding what they send and to whom they send it. Unfortunately young people engaging in this type of behaviour do so without considering the consequences. They often find out later that the image/message has been passed on to many others and as a result they can become the victims of bullying or harassment. We are also aware that in some rare instances these images/messages have ended up in the collections of offenders.

Please speak frankly with your child about this type of behaviour. Further advice for parents can be accessed on the CEOP website at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

Please do continue to keep me and my colleagues informed about any further concerns that come to your notice in this respect.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

N M Barrow
Principal