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Kingsthorpe College

Our Ref:KHP/lr

7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day 2023

Part of our Online Safety Policy at Kingsthorpe College

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Kingsthorpe College, we are passionate about ensuring our students have the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Safe and responsible use of the Internet is therefore something we take very seriously, and there are several events and activities undertaken each year to ensure our students have up-to-date awareness of how to protect themselves and others online.

- We have a dedicated online safety channel in our Student Teams to share important reminders and updates with students in all year groups.
- We have an Acceptable Use Policy (please find updated version from Jan 2023 on pages 3-7) which is shared with students via Teams and must be always adhered to.
- We use a filtering system which monitors and blocks malicious or inappropriate content from any inbound internet traffic.
- Our online safety staff group meets regularly and carries out an annual 360 self-review of our online safety measures. While we are above national averages in many areas, we always strive to do more.
- We have annual online safety assemblies and take part in the annual Safer Internet Day.
- We have a dedicated display outside Student Services which contains advice and tips about reporting, blocking, and removing content on all social media platforms.

Student Experience

The online world is constantly changing, and it can be difficult to keep on top of the latest apps and platforms young people are using. Therefore, we focus on the knowledge and behaviours that help young people to navigate the online world safely and confidently - regardless of the app, platform, or device they are on.

As part of the Digital Literacy Curriculum at Kingsthorpe College, students in all year groups complete an age-appropriate unit of work about online safety each year that covers:

- How to evaluate what they see online.
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion.
- Understanding acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour.
- How to identify online risks.
- How and when to seek support, including reporting to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection).

We have a team of Student Digital Leaders who help co-ordinate online safety activities, as well as our annual Safer Internet Day. We are always happy to have new members! Your child should contact Miss Grisley if interested.

Parent/Carer Support

Online safety works best in partnership between our school and our community. Our Online Safety Agreement (attached) contains information about what we ask from our parents and carers. Please take time to read this and discuss with your child. Please also note that you are automatically opted-into these agreements as students and parents/carers within the Kingsthorpe College community. If you do not consent, please note that it will limit your child's access to technology and resources used in our curriculum. Please contact enquiries@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk if you would like to discuss this further.

The Department for Education has published a list of recommended further reading about online safety:

- Support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harm which provides extensive resources to help keep children safe online and details of specific online risks, including sexual abuse, criminal exploitation, and radicalisation.
- CEOP Education provides advice from the NCA on staying safe online.
- Childnet offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.
- Internet matters provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.
- London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online.
- Keeping children safe online has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including guides on social media, internet connected devices and toys and online games.

- Let's Talk About It has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- UK Safer Internet Centre has tips, advice, guides, and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

We recommend all members of our community sign-up to #WakeupWednesday which is a free weekly publication from the National Online Safety Group. We will continue to share important updates based on live issues as they emerge via our Arbor Parent App and/or our school social media sites.

Finally, we have a dedicated email inbox that our students can use to report anything that makes them feel unsafe online (listening@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk). This inbox is monitored by our Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hayward-Pretty
Assistant Headteacher