

Dear Parents/Carers,

Week three begins and learning from home continues. As an Academy we want all our students to practise the positives of online communication. Whether that is posting a Snapchat story or updating their WhatsApp status, there is always an opportunity to be someone's online ally. Here are some more tips and tricks to achieve safe online learning environments.

1. Online Safety PowerPoint – The online safety PowerPoint has been emailed to all students on Monday this week and demonstrates how all students can become an online ally to their friends and how they represent themselves online. This is in the hope that students remember to support each other and their community during a time where they might feel most isolated from their peers.
2. Phones, 'Do Not Disturb' – As you may be aware spending hours and hours on mobile devices can shorten children's attention spans and due to remote learning some children are of course needing to spend even more time looking at their mobile screens. One feature you might want to encourage your child to use is the 'Do Not Disturb' feature found on all types of phones. This can be turned on and set for one hour or use it overnight until sunrise. This feature will mute all notifications or vibrations from their phone, including social media, leaving students to focus on their studies or to sleep. This can then help to provide your child with periods of rest through the day in order to support their wellbeing and/or used to ensure they get a good night's rest.
3. TikTok – TikTok is an app that has taken the world by storm. However, with popularity comes more threats to your child's online safety. TikTok is listed as a 12+ on Google Play Store but has featured content such as: Drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm, suicide-themed videos, explicit lyrics, and young children engaging in sexually suggestive content. To remain safe children need to have restricted mode and basic privacy settings enabled, these are found in the settings tab. If, as a parent, you have a TikTok account you may also use the "Family safety mode" allowing parents to link accounts with your child. A great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing giving you direct control over their safety settings.

We hope that these tips are useful to you and we thank you for your continued support in keeping all children safe online.

Yours faithfully,

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