5th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Today is Safer Internet Day! To celebrate this at The Priory Academy LSST this week there will be a variety of activities to celebrate this during Form Time, at lunch time and during lessons that will look at how students can make the best of the internet. There will be a particular focus on how students share their personal data online.

I would like to invite you to our Online Safety Parents Meeting which is taking place on March 6th starting at 6pm. This first took place last year with parents of Year 7 and feedback was very positive. Therefore we wish to invite all parents this year. During the evening advice will be given on keeping your child safe online and there will be a chance to ask questions. If you wish to attend please email pduncan@prioryacademies.co.uk stating how many people will be with you or ask your child to hand the slip at the end of this Newsletter to Student Reception.

A recent online craze that is causing concern is the 'Momo Challenge'. This is a game which challenges players to communicate on social media (mainly WhatsApp) with an unknown user called Momo. Momo challenges the player to complete a series of dangerous tasks and sends the player violent and disturbing images. This game has been linked to cases of children taking their own lives. This has been prominent in a few countries around the world for a while now and is starting to draw attention in the UK. I would advise you not to mention this to your child to avoid arousing curiosity, but regularly have open and honest one to one conversations with your child about their use of social media and who they are talking to.

I would also like to make you aware of an app which has come to the attention of our E-Safety Group recently called **HOLLA**. This is an app that allows people to live video chat with strangers for a limited amount of time. This is relatively new but there has already been a lot of concerns raised about this. It is an app that is ideal for cyberbullies and predators who can meet people online and chat with them easily. Whilst this app claims it is for 13 years plus, it has been rated as 17 years plus by both Apple and Google. There is also a similar app called **Monkey** which is now owned by HOLLA.

Another set of apps to be wary of is messaging apps with end to end encryption given that nationally there are concerns that people are using these specifically to hide activities. Given the number of well know proprietary apps such as Messenger, WhatsApp, Viber and Kik, there should be no reason why someone would have something different, unless the specifically want to hide their activities. None of the apps are illegal, they just have extra encryption and could be being used legitimately for other purposes. But if your child has such an app you might want to challenge them on their need to use it. The current list of messaging apps with encryption includes; OSTEL, Silent Circle, RED Phone, Zom, Chat Secure, Signal, Imo, Wickr, Telegram, Threem and Surespot.

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As always I would encourage open and honest conversations with you child if they are using any of the apps mentioned in this newsletter. If you need further support as always you are welcome to contact me on gsleight@prioryacademies.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Sleight
E-Safety Lead and Assistant Head

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I/We wish to attend the Online Safety Parents Meeting on 6th March at 6pm. ☐

Name of Child:

Number of People Attending: