

5th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

Re: UK's Safer Internet Day

I am writing to inform you that Tuesday 6th February is the UK's Safer Internet Day, it is designed to raise awareness of the dangers and risks young people face and how we can promote safe and positive online usage, which supports the wellbeing of our students.

I am therefore taking this opportunity to write to you to update you on the school's commitment to supporting young people in demonstrating safe and appropriate behaviours online.

Ashmole already teaches explicit lessons surrounding online safety in our extensive PSHE curriculum on a number of topics including, online gaming, dangers of grooming, online bullying and harassment as well as advice on where to get support and report concerns. In addition, students across all year groups are shown regular safeguarding reminders in form time on a range of issues including online safety tips.

To educate around Safer Internet Day there will be additional form time assemblies and reflections in the week commencing Monday 5th February. The theme of this will be based around online harassment; why it's unacceptable and how our students can report issues and access support.

In addition, we recognise that as Parent/Carer(s) this is also a complicated and challenging area of life to navigate with your child and therefore we would like to offer Parent/Carer(s) of students in Year 7 and 8 the opportunity to access a free online Zoom session with Barnet's Education Officer who will present information to support your understanding and awareness with regards to the following areas:

- Online gaming
- Social media platforms (including parental settings)
- Exploitation and grooming
- Appropriate sleep patterns

.../cont.

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- Open dialogue with their children about their experiences and risks they are exposed to
- How to identify threats and safer use of apps, security, filters, timers etc

If you are a Parent/Carer of a Year 7 or 8 student and would be interested in attending an online Zoom session regarding safe online usage, please complete the Google form below to register your interest. This will allow us to secure a booking with the provider and forward you further details.

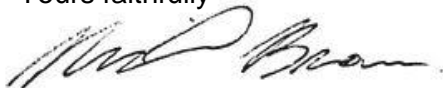
<https://forms.gle/E3AfoBLsXHaC4cet7>

Please also be reminded of the monthly online safety newsletter which is sent to all Parent/Carer(s); the latest issue on our website has tips on age appropriate ratings for PlayStation games and VR headsets as well as some new control features for monitoring your child's use of What's App. At the end of this letter, there are a number of websites which you may find helpful.

I will write to you again later in the school year with further information and updates on the work we are doing specifically around online safety.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Nicola Brown
Senior Leader i/c Personal Development

Websites:

- **UK Safer Internet Centre:** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/education-resources>
- **LGfL:** <https://lgfl.net/safeguarding/safer-internet-day>
- **BBC:** The BBC have curated a selection of videos and quizzes that you might find useful - <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/safer-internet-day-2024>
- **Webwise:** Includes presentations to help you explore the SID theme
- <https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/>
- **Internet Matters:** Advice and topics for you to explore
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/>
- **Tech She Can:** They are hosting live assemblies focussing on careers in AI
- <https://techshecan.org/live-assemblies>