Dare to be Remarkable

19th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware of a number of new apps and games that students are downloading and playing on their phones and devices. We wanted to take this opportunity to flag these with you in order that you can check the apps and games they are using and ensure that they are using them safely. Most recently we have been made aware of an app called AmongUs where young people have ended up chatting with strangers who have turned out to be unknown adults trying to hook them into conversations.

We would like to encourage you to have regular conversations with your children about their internet usage and particularly the apps they are using and the safety measures they have in place to protect them. We have created a page on our website, which can be found here: https://www.kgabinfield.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=82 that has one page parent guides for the apps and websites we know a number of our young people are using. Please spend some time familiarising yourself with these so that you are then able to have informed conversations with your children about how they can use these responsibly and safely. We will continue to prioritise E-safety as part of our curriculum in ICT as well as PSHE and tutor time.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the BBC 'Own It' app, which supports students with moderating their internet usage. This is particularly prevalent given this week is 'Anti-Bullying Week'. One of the features of this app is a keyboard which will help them with prompts and reminders about the content of what they are typing and also flag support to them if they type something worrying. More information about this app can be found here: https://www.bbc.com/ownit/about-us/own-it-app-faqs

Other websites you may find useful are:

https://www.internetmatters.org/
https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

We know keeping your children safe online can feel overwhelming at times, if you have any concerns or worries about your child's internet usage, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will be happy to provide support and guidance.

Yours sincerely

Laura Phillips
Vice Principal/Designated Safeguarding Lead

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