

Friday, 08 January 2016

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Staying Safe Online

You will be aware the internet hosts many exciting opportunities for education. The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity, but just like the real world there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from. As an academy we encourage the use of technology as an important part of our students' development but want them to spend their time online safely. As a parent/carer you can play a significant part in ensuring this.

South Yorkshire Police have brought to our attention concerns over young people's misuse of social media, in this case Instagram. They have informed us that a number of 'Gossip Girl' Instagram accounts have been created across Doncaster. These accounts are created with the intention of posting derogatory comments/ images of other young people. Creating accounts such as this is a criminal offence and the police are currently investigating the use of such sites. As such all information we receive regarding young people's activity on sites like this that discriminate, abuse or bully others will be reported directly to the police. All students have been informed of the severity of creating/ accessing 'Gossip Girl' or any other sites which are inappropriate and South Yorkshire Police have released a statement which has been played to all students.

In order to safeguard your child against any involvement in such practice please discuss with them how to stay safe online (see attached factsheet). If they have any involvement in creating/ commenting/ following any material of this nature please ensure they take appropriate action to leave the site/profile and therefore cease their support of such offensive posts and comments.

If you would like further information regarding how you can restrict your child's access to inappropriate content online please refer to the parents section of our website (www.theallsaints.net) where you will find useful tips and step by step guides.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Lawler
Principal