

WINDSOR ROAD
CAISTER-ON-SEA
GREAT YARMOUTH
NORFOLK
NR30 5LS

PRINCIPAL: BEN DRIVER
T +44 (0)1493 720542
E enquiries@caisteracademy.org.uk
www.caisteracademy.org.uk



**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Monday 30 January 2023

Dear Parent

Spring 1 Safeguarding Update

I hope you and your family enjoyed a safe and happy Christmas break, and that your child/children have now settled back into the routine of school life.

Autumn/Winter Safeguarding Issues Feedback

Thank you for acting and speaking with your children about the issues I raised in my last update. More children are wearing coats to school, and we have had less concerns about road safety reported by the local community.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, each season brings its own safeguarding challenges and I particularly look forward to the spring months, which bring daylight at the start and end of the school day, meaning our children can travel safer as they make their way to and from school.

Personal Development and PSHE Curriculum

This year we have split each half term into a 'golden thread' that unites our safeguarding and personal, health, social and economic curriculum to ensure our young people are aware of what they are studying and why.

We started the new school year with '**Celebrating Diversity & Tolerance**', last term we moved onto '**Anti-Bullying**' which has been a huge success. We enlisted the Diana Trust to run anti-bullying ambassador training with our new anti-bullying ambassadors and staff, launched an anonymous online reporting system and educated students through a series of assemblies and PSHE lessons.

Anti-bullying was a school focus due to a student survey conducted last year, during the summer term. The survey revealed that only 34% of students agreed with the statement '*Bullying is not a problem at this school*'. Following our work in this area, 76% of students now feel that bullying has improved this year, and that it is no longer a problem. This is a real testament to the hard work students have led on to move towards our goal of eradicating bullying at Caister Academy. Alongside this statistic the survey indicated more children agree that bullying is resolved when it's reported. Though encouraging, staff and students will continue to challenge bullying of all kinds robustly. If you feel that your child may be being bullied, please contact their Form Tutor in the first instance, or Head of Year.

This term's personal development focus is '**Staying Safe Online and Offline**' and will be taught in assemblies, PSHE curriculum and personalised learning time with their form tutor and whole school events. Specifically, each year group will be learning about the following:

- Year 11 – Personal Study (St Giles Visit)
- Year 10 – Rights and Responsibilities
- Year 9 – Essential Life Skills
- Year 8 – Proud to be me
- Year 7 – Staying Safe Online & Offline

We will be celebrating 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday 7 February and all students will receive an assembly on empathy and staying safe online.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Student Survey Results

Last term I wrote to you to inform you that we were conducting a large-scale Trust survey on Harmful Sexual Behaviours. This is a national safeguarding priority, and this information is vital in ensuring our young people are safe from this category of sexual child-on-child abuse.

I would like to share that children attending Caister Academy reported they were less likely to experience the following points, compared to other schools within the Trust:

- Sexual assault
- Sexist name calling
- Rumours about someone's sexual activity
- Unwanted comments of a sexual nature
- Pressure to do things of a sexual nature
- Being sent unwanted images/videos
- Being pressured to send images/videos
- Being photographed or videoed without permission
- Having videos/pictures shared without permission

Of the students who did not respond neutrally, 95% of students responded that they strongly agree or agree that Caister Academy has educated them around harmful sexual behaviours. 82% said that education about sex and relationships is strong. 83% said that if a student carries out a harmful sexual behaviour, they are sanctioned and 92% said that victims get the support they need.

Though these statistics are reassuring in some ways, just one incident of harmful sexual behaviour is too many. When we looked at when these behaviours take place, there is a strong pattern of them now occurring outside of school. This was particularly the case for:

- Students being pressured to do sexual things that they don't want to ('*out of school*' has risen from 32% last year, to 73% this year)
- Being sent unwanted sexual pictures or videos ('*out of school*' has risen from 9% last year, to 96% this year)
- Being pressured to provide sexual videos or photos ('*out of school*' has risen from 11% last year, to 96% this year)

As an Academy we continue to educate our students about online and offline safety outside of school, but the data indicates that as parents, you have a role in monitoring and protecting your child from online abuse at home. Below I have added links to helpful videos from 'my family coach' to support you as a parent to keep your child/children safe from online abuse:

- <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/podcast-screen-time-online-behaviour-online-safety-social-media-keep-safe-online/> -online safety
- <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/keep-child-safe-on-social-media/> - safety on social media
- <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/quick-read-at-risk-behaviour-puberty-sex-relationships-social-media-screen-time-pornography-and-sexting/> - At risk behaviour, pornography and sexting

Andrew Tate

I recently read an article on the controversial online influencer who has been detained in Romania because of allegations of human trafficking and rape (which he denies). Schools across the country are experiencing a rise in sexist language and there have been links drawn between this influencer and that increase.

Andrew Tate has been banned from TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube for misogynistic comments. We have added 'Andrew Tate' to our safe search to flag up anyone trying to research him and have educated around his extreme views. Please could you be vigilant to your child/children expressing admiration or unusual interest with this influencer and contact us if you have any concerns, as we can support your child/children with greater education.

Fake Accounts

As a team we are vigilant to new groups and fake accounts appearing. Parents have reported that their children have been approached by two fake accounts claiming to be model agencies, these are *Matchmodeluk* and *Eleatmodel*. These two accounts have been active on Instagram and TikTok so please alert your children and let us know if you hear of any other fake accounts, so we can alert parents and the police. These accounts had specifically requested pictures of female students and asked intrusive sexualised questions. The police are aware and are investigating.

NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online

I'd like to introduce you to the 'keeping children safe online' part of the NSPCC website found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

As a parent this is my 'go to' for support with online concerns. The online safety guides for parents are an excellent resource to help you understand the risks and age limits of online games, what to do if your child is the victim of trolling or bullying or a scam, and how to protect them from talking to people they don't know.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Other advice includes social media, internet connected devices, livestreaming and online video apps, parental controls, and chat apps. Please do have a look at these resources when you get time to support them with staying safe.

On-site Parking

At the end of the school day, we have noticed some vehicles coming onto the school site and using the academy car park. Please can this be avoided unless you have a meeting at the school as there are many students moving around at this time which could lead to a collision.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for supporting us in keeping our children safe in and outside of school. The harmful sexual behaviour survey indicates that the school is safer than ever, bullying has reduced, and children are proud of this, but our work is never finished and there is always more we can do.

I look forward to writing to you after February half term with more updates.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Helen Seath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss Helen Seath
Vice Principal