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Wednesday 20 April 2022

Dear Parent

April Safeguarding Update

As Summer approaches I hope that you and your family are enjoying the longer days and warmer weather. Last month staff continued their mental health awareness training, focussing on supporting students with depression and anxiety. This month in assemblies we will recognise sexual assault awareness month and continue to promote healthy relationships and encouraging students to speak out on these difficult matters.

Safeguarding

This month's factsheets will be on the topics of child safety on TikTok and Instagram.

TikTok

Though TikTok can be used for positive sharing, as an Academy we have been made aware of some students setting up accounts under different names with a view to making fun of other students and teachers. This is viewed as peer-on-peer abuse, and bullying, and we have sought police involvement. Where we have positively identified students, this breaches our acceptable use agreement, and the behaviour policy which we are sanctioning robustly for. Outside of this misuse, TikTok can also be used to cause other harm to your child including 'challenges' that are potentially dangerous, and sexually suggestive lyrics. Please take time to read the attached factsheet and speak with your child around the profiles they subscribe to. The minimum age is 13 to access TikTok. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have information relating to a fake account being used for these reasons.

Instagram

Instagram is a social media app which connects people through the sharing of photos. There have been several media stories about bullying on Instagram, and children seeing harmful images and advice about weight loss, self-harm, and suicide. For this reason, I would suggest that you read the attached factsheet and ensure that your child's profile is set to 'private' and restrict comments.

Water Safety

Though many of you will have lived in Caister your whole lives, it is easy to forget that this beautiful village is 'on the water's edge' and the safety implications for our children should not be forgotten. In May we welcome the RNLI lifeguard team to complete assemblies on water safety with our students. For more information on this, please visit the RNLI safety page by clicking this link [Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks \(rnli.org\)](https://www.rnli.org.uk/advice-and-tips-know-the-risks).

PSHE Curriculum

Our Personal, Social, and Health Education team have been working hard to educate around the following themes in the Spring term:

- Year 7 – Financial management, moving to puberty, emotional health, and wellbeing in the summer term
- Year 8 – Prejudice moving to career skills in the summer term
- Year 9 – Health and personal safety moving to rights and responsibilities in the summer term

The team have also identified that though sex education including contraceptives has been delivered to year 9 and 10 students, some of this teaching was remote over lockdown. For this reason, all year 9 and 10 students will have a lesson on healthy relationships, sexually transmitted disease and contraception delivered by our science team early in the summer term.

National Day of Reflection 23 March

On Wednesday 23 March we joined with Marie Curie Charity and held a minute's silence to mark two years since the first national lockdown. Staff put daffodils on windowsills in memory of all who have lost their lives and been severely affected by Covid 19. I know that some of our school community have lost family members and wanted to extend our sympathies. This is something we will mark every year to ensure our loved ones are not forgotten.

Ukraine Conflict

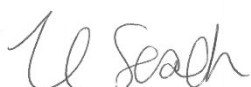
Finally, I would like to express a thank you to everyone who donated belongings to the Ukrainian appeal. All donations were driven from the UK to the Ukrainian border last month and will already be in the hands of the people of Ukraine who desperately need them. We were overwhelmed by your support and once again I was reminded of how lucky I am to work with the Caister Academy school community.

Finally

As always, please do contact reception and ask for the designated safeguarding lead if you have any issues around your child's safety that you would like to discuss. Please also get in touch if you would like information on a different topic that I have not included in this month's update.

I look forward to writing to you next month on more topical safeguarding issues.

Yours faithfully



Helen Seath
Vice Principal

Attached:

- Parent Guide – Child Safety on TikTok
- Parent Guide – Child Safety on Instagram