



## Pastoral Update Half Term I

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find an update from the pastoral and safeguarding team from this half term:

### **Online Safety and Remote Learning Safety Tips**

Due to increased concerns around incorrect usage of phones and social media, we do need to draw your attention to some safeguarding issues and also ask that you share these safety tips with your children. As we are using remote learning for students who are self-isolating, we have also included some basic expectations and safety guidance that we need you to be aware of.

**Ask your child to keep personal information private;** to not share personal details like address, school, phone number or location. To avoid posting anything that can identify them to a specific location such as school, football club etc.

### **‘Sexting’ or taking / sending ‘youth produced sexualised imagery’.**

Please note it is an offence for children to take indecent images, nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves. It is also an offence for students to possess these images on their phones and send them on to others or upload these. Sadly, we have had to deal with several incidents involving our students taking part in this activity and it can have serious repercussions for their safety, emotional wellbeing and relationships at school.

We have to notify the police when this occurs and we will always inform parents. We will continue to do prevention work through PSHCE lessons and tutor time, but please do be aware of this safeguarding issue and regularly check your child’s phone and talk about responsible phone use.

**Make sure your child’s security settings are in place** so that you can control who sees what they share online and check these regularly.

Remember to remind them that people online are not always who they say they are.

**Think before they post or send** anything online. Would you or they be happy for anyone to see it? Remind them that even if you send something privately the person you are sending it to could screen shot it and share it.

**Remind them that not all information online is reliable,** check if it is a trusted source before using it. Beware of pop ups that take you to less trusted sites and check web addresses look genuine.

## **Remote learning from home: Safety in live lessons from home**

If your child is self-isolating is accessing a live lesson at school or from a member of staff, please ensure the following:

- ❖ Your child is in an appropriate and neutral space such as a dining table, desk, sofa, kitchen table. Your child should not be in bed, or in a bedroom.
- ❖ That there is nothing inappropriate or offensive in the background.
- ❖ Remind your child to not share personal information whilst on line.
- ❖ Try to ensure the space is quiet and that other children are not seen in the background.
- ❖ Your child should be appropriately dressed and ready to learn, with full equipment at hand.
- ❖ Your child must follow the same rules and etiquette as we would expect in a classroom.
- ❖ Ground rules may be given at the start of each lesson and these must be followed. Students may ask staff appropriate questions when prompted.
- ❖ Students who behave poorly during a live lesson will be subject to the same sanctions in line with school policy on their return.

If you are worried about your child's use of social media, contact school [pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org](mailto:pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org) or call school on 0113 2265454.

## **Mobile Phone use in school**

Please remind your child about the mobile phone policy. We operate an invisible phone policy. This means they cannot be used or seen on school site. They should be switched off and in the student's bag as they enter site. We do not want to catch students out, but phones will be confiscated if rules are not adhered to. We have to deal with a number of students this half term who have forgotten the rules around phones have taken serious action where phones have been used to photograph or video others on site. Please note that students who do this will be excluded as this breaches privacy rights and safeguarding protocols.

## **Equipment for after Half Term**

Please ensure your child has a fully stocked pencil case on their return after half term. Students cannot borrow or share forgotten equipment. Already this term we have seen student's equipment decrease; either being lost, forgotten or left behind.

## **Uniform**

Please remember that students now need to bring their full school uniform and shoes to change into after their PE lesson. Students cannot be in lesson without full uniform.

With the first half term near to its close, some students have begun to push the boundaries around PE and general school uniform and are very quickly building up comments or sanctions by not adhering fully to school policy.

To prevent this happening in the next term and so we can maintain our focus on safe teaching and learning, we please ask that you ensure your child is dressed according to the policy on our return after half term.

Skirts should be no higher than 5 cm above the knee and trousers should be full length, tailored and not a 'skinny fit'. Only one stud in the bottom of each ear lobe is permitted and students will have other forms of jewellery confiscated. Students, who wear trainers or pumps instead of school shoes, will be given a spare pair of schools shoes to avoid being withdrawn from lessons.

Hair must be no shorter than a grade/blade 2, we do not allow extreme 'skin fades'. We do not allow extreme hairstyles or colours. Tramlines in the hair and Mohawk's are not allowed.

### **Rewards Points**

We are pleased to report that the vast majority our young people have been accumulating both banked and bonus credits for their excellent behaviour, punctuality and effort this half term. All students in years 7-11 will be given their grand total in the progress review lesson and e-certificates will be issued.

### **Pastoral Support, Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Form Tutors are the first port of call for students should they need a little extra support at school. Please also contact your child's Tutor at school should you have any concerns.

Already this term, students have had special activities in form time to help them adjust to being back at school, explore resilience and 'look forward' and through PSHCE they have taken part of covid-19 recovery lessons looking at mental health and wellbeing.

Please contact the pastoral team [pastoralhub@hotsforthschool.org](mailto:pastoralhub@hotsforthschool.org) if you would like some support for your child's wellbeing, need advice or just have a query.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at school is mandatory for all year groups and the DfE has asked all schools to resume their usual tracking and monitoring. Therefore we have now started to track absence and as a result our interventions including awareness raising letters will be sent to those parents/carers whose child's attendance falls towards 90%. It is at this stage a student is classed as a Persistence Absentee and where school will have a concern. Please see the policy on our website for more details.

### **Anti- Bullying Week**

We work hard all year round to promote a zero tolerance attitude, ethos and culture toward bullying. However we will be highlighting this issue as part of the national anti-bullying week in November when we return. Please see our Facebook page for more details on our return.

On behalf of the pastoral team, we wish you and your family a restful and safe half term and thank you for your continued support.