

Wendy Walters BA (Hons) MA
Academy Principal

Chatham Grammar
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 7EH

T : 01634 851262
E : OfficeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk
W: www.chathamgrammar.org.uk

A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Dear Parent/ carer

Re: Online Safety

Over the past 2 terms we have been working really hard as a school to ensure students have online safety at the forefront of their thoughts, our aim is to make 'think twice before you post online' as prevalent as 'stop, look, listen' as they cross a road.

We have successfully gained another year's accreditation with 'National Online Safety'. Parents and staff have worked together to show our commitment to educating our students about online safety. If you as a parent/carer would like to use this platform please click the link below, once signed up you can access a huge range of resources, including the latest advice for how to stay safe on new platforms as they are launched as well as the long standing platforms such as Instagram and WhatsApp.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/chatham-grammar>

Students discuss online safety topics in personal tutor time on a weekly basis, we are keen to ensure that this topic is always on their minds, and they feel confident sharing any concerns with their PT, and they know how to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online. Screenshot, report and tell a trusted adult is the advice we give.

During term 2 all students have watched an assembly from our E safety lead and the Digital Leader Team, they have also completed activities in their personal tutor time, with a focus on 'Online reputation', this makes us think about how our actions online now could affect us later in life, when we want to apply for college, 6th form, university or even employment. Once a post is online, we lose control of it, we can delete it, but we do not know who has already seen it, shared it or taken a screenshot of it 'once online, always online'.

During term 2 we also welcomed parents onsite to discuss how to keep children safe online, parents had the opportunity to discuss their concerns with our e-safety lead as well as other parents. Practical advice was offered for how to start open conversations with children at home and keep up to date with the platforms our children are using and to be aware of the dangers that come with all online activity. We will be offering further sessions like this, so please keep an eye out for further events.

In school we run a digital leader programme, this is open to all students across all years. The team meet weekly, initially the students complete training modules online with the charity 'Childnet' to help educate them, they then share their knowledge with the rest of the school via assemblies, competitions and quizzes. It is always great to have new members

so if your daughter is interested please ask her to email sanger@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk to find out more.

We are very lucky to have our own digital Champion. Lucy (Year 12) joined the digital leader team in year 8 and applied for a further role directly with Childnet, Lucy is a great asset to us, she is one of 6 digital champions in the UK, she helps to give the youth a voice in online safety campaigns, she gives students at CG a voice that can be taken directly to members of large companies such as TikTok and Instagram. Lucy attends regular meetings and events and feeds back to us as a team in school.

The following sites are recommended for advice and reporting concerns.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk the main UK Government website with advice on how to keep safe online.

www.ceop.police.uk the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) is the Government body dedicated to eradicating abuse of children. Concerns about inappropriate contacts between a child and an adult, including online, can be reported directly to CEOP. There is usually an option available to "report abuse to CEOPS", on most social networking sites, like Facebook - simply click the "button".

www.childline.org.uk Childline is a service provided by the NSPCC, operated by trained volunteer counsellors. It is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline if you are distressed or in danger. You can call the free helpline for support: 0800 11 11.

If you need to report a concern to the Academy, you can email: refernow@univeristyofkentacademiestrust.org.uk Or you can speak to your Personal Tutor, Mrs Sanger (E-Safety lead) or Mrs Franquiera, Mrs Kadejoh, Ms Knight (our Wellbeing Team).

Your sincerely
Elizabeth Sanger
E Safety Lead



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

From time to time we may use your personal information to communicate newsletters or marketing information about events, products and services offered by the school which we feel are relevant to you. We will communicate marketing information to you on the basis of "legitimate interest" due to your current relationship with the school. You will find further information about how we use your personal information in our Data Privacy Notice by visiting <http://www.chathamgirlsgrammar.medway.sch.uk/privacy-parents/>. Should you wish to opt out of receiving these communications at any time you can do so by contacting the school office via email: officeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk