

March 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As part of our ongoing safeguarding and online safety campaign we feel it important to highlight the following: Sexting is when people share a sexual message and/or a naked or semi-naked image, video or text message with another person. It's also known as nude image sharing. Please support your child in making the right choices and not partaking in this practice.

It's a criminal offence to create or share explicit images of a child, even if the person doing it is a child. If sexting is reported to the police, they will make a record but may decide not take any formal action against a young person. We are concerned that a minority of students have been sharing inappropriate images and encouraging their peers to do the same.

Whilst we spend a lot of time educating our young people on safe online practice it is vital that we work together in and out of the academy. So we ask if you could please spend some time with your child discussing how they conduct themselves online and ensure that:

Any social media accounts are appropriate for their age:

Age 13+ : Facebook Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Snapchat, Yubo etc.

Age 16+: WhatsApp

That they are being kind in all that they post or send

There is some valuable advice and support about online safety here: Keeping children safe online | NSPCC

We would also like to take the opportunity to make you aware of a website called Omegle which allows anyone to join and talk with anyone from any age. The safeguarding risks of using this website are huge.

Please support us in encouraging your child to have a healthy and positive online presence.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Claire Bramwell-Smith Assistant Head /DSL

Headteacher: Mr R Trow



The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW Telephone: 01522 889977

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