Safeguarding Newsletter



Spring Term 2 2025

This half termly newsletter has been focused around general safeguarding Matters and information to support families.

The Safeguarding Leadership Team





You can reach the Safeguarding Leadership team at:

safeguarding@tggsacademy.org

Mrs Wilkinson

Mrs West

The Manosphere, Incels and Netflix.

If you have a Netflix account or are on any social media platform, you will have most certainly have seen that the recent documentary 'Adolescence' has significantly raised awareness of Incel's, the Manosphere and the impact of young people watching harmful content online. So not to assume that all parents are aware, we have outlined some key terms below –

Manosphere – Websites, blogs and online forums that promote masculinity, misogyny and opposition to feminism.

Incel – A member of an online community of young men who consider themselves unable to attract a women sexually.

Chads and Stacys – Chads are the 'ultimate alpha' and Stacys are idealisation of feminity.

(N)AWALT (Not) All Women Are Like That.

At TGGS we ensure our PSHE and online safety curriculum's continue to educate students of the risks of inappropriate online content. We educate students of what a healthy relationship looks like and the characteristics of unhealthy relationships. As outlined in the last safeguarding newsletter, we educate students on how they can check a potential partner, using Claire's Law. It is essential that parents monitor interactions their children have online and with their peers, even in open conversation as this could give you the opportunity to spot something of concern. This newsletter is dedicated to this, Artificial intelligence and deepfake technology.



Student Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Earlier this year I introduced you to this year's well-being ambassadors. They have been integral in shaping the mental health support we provide students as a school and have supported over 20 peers this year so far!

They recently launched a wellbeing club, 'The Hangout' which has been attended by an average of 30 students a week. This club is to encourage students to come and spend time talking, playing games and a chance for the ambassadors to support students informally.

Please do encourage your child to attend if you feel it is something that may support them. Not all students are confident to ask for help, and this is an excellent gateway for students if they need to build confidence, meet new students or access support from our amazing well-being ambassadors.



Netflix's adolescence.

The program depicts a 13-year-old boy who is accused of the murder of a classmate. His family, therapist and the detective in charge are left asking what really happened. The program explores that Jamie (the 13-year-old boy) is a normal child who goes to school, has friends and engages in family life. However, in the background, via being online in his room in a private space, with no monitoring of the content he is watching, Jamie has been accessing content that promotes misogyny and opposition to feminism.

There have been many comments and reactions to this series from professionals in roles represented within the program. Whilst there are some clear differences in practice vs portrayal in the program, the stark reality is that young boys and girls continue to have access to, and do access inappropriate content that can skew and influence the way that they think and behave.

The best thing that we can all do in response to this is to continue to stay up to date with current affairs, read key information shared by schools, the police, the government and **most importantly talk to your child about what they are viewing and doing online.**



Please encourage your children to be **SMART online.** If you have any concerns with any content your child has received you can report this through the following sites:

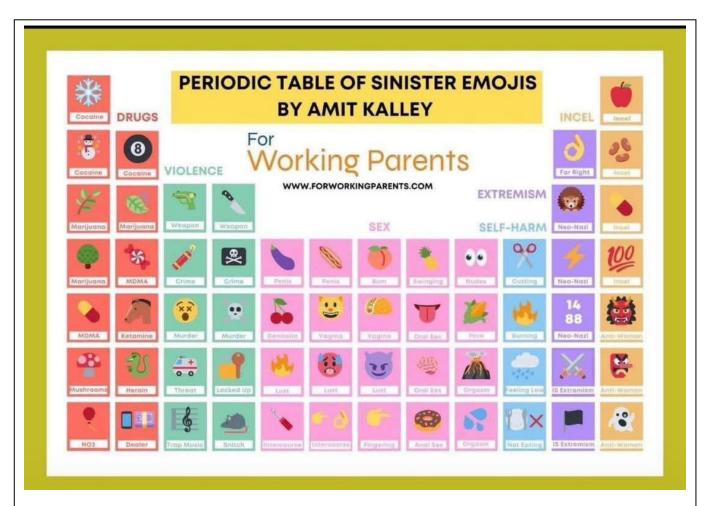
Report to CEOP

Report Harmful Content - We Help You Remove Content

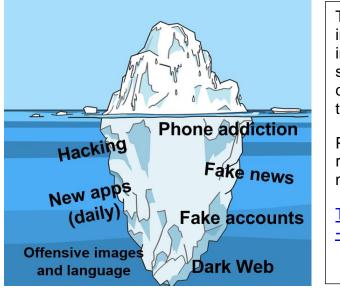
ONLINE SAFETY We constantly remind our students of their digital footprint. The average teenager spends up to 3 hours a day on their phone accessing social media. It is so important that parents use the advice in this newsletter to take an active role in ensuring children access the internet safely. We continue to publish advice through our website for our whole community. There is advice on our parent specific online safety page through our website.

Torquay Girls Grammar School - Online Safety for Parents

It is highly recommended that you do not allow your child to have access to their mobile phone overnight in their bedrooms. We advise that parents check what their children are looking at every week. Do this together to build trust, and ask them to show you their social media accounts. This way you can see the content that appears and also see how your child interacts with their peers.



Above is a recent example shared of how some emojis may be misused in communications through messaging or social media applications. Whilst some of the language and meaning may come as a shock, this is now how some communicate, especially when wanting to keep matter secretive. When you are checking your child's phone this may be helpful to look at so you can challenge any conversations you are concerned about.



There are so many hidden impacts of social media and the internet. What you see on the surface of your child's phone could literally be just the tip of the iceberg.

Please check our website for regular updates on online matters.

Torquay Girls Grammar School - Online Safety for Parents



Artificial intelligence (AI) is a set of technologies that enable computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, including the ability to see, understand and translate spoken and written language, analyse data, make recommendations, and more. The most commonly known AI is Chat GTP.

Risks – Information produced can be fake (images / altered messages).

Grooming – AI chatbots simulate child-like conversations to build trust. Predators can deceive young people.

Bias, Discrimination & Harmful content – AI may reinforce harmful biases (racism, sexism, extremist content).

Al assisted Bullying and Exploitation – Al can generate harmful content (fake bullying messages, manipulated images).

Checklist for parents to consider if a child is impacted by AI

- 1. **Behaviour** secretiveness about digital device, unexplained increase in confidence or capability, mentions helping tools or uses euphemisms for AI assistants, reluctance to show process behind creating documents / information.
- 2. Concerning Incidents impersonation online that seems sophisticated, child receives personalised harassment that knows specific details, appearance of fabricated evidence that didn't occur, reports of voice messages that sound like someone the student knows.
- **3. Technical warning signs** Unusual payment transactions for digital services, applications or extensions installed that mention content generation or enhancement, multiple accounts across platforms

Deepfakes

Deepfakes are **videos**, **picture or audio clips made with artificial intelligence** to look real. These can be created very easily. Advances in technology are enabling them to be made in less expensive applications. The clip below gives a more detailed explanation and visual to explain how they are created. <u>Deepfake technology: What is it, how does it work, and what can it be used for? - BBC Newsround</u>.

Reasons that Deepfakes are overlooked or missed is because......

- We scroll so quickly that it is hard to tell the difference between the videos that are real and fake.
- If it is someone's voice or image that they know, they would not question that it was not them.
- They are very realistic; they do not even consider that it might be fake.
- People do not believe it will happen to them.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms



Contacts if you are concerned about a child.

If you are worried about a child, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, or your query is of a safeguarding nature, please call the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub):

For Torbay residents call 01803 08100 or email mash@torbay.gov.uk

For out of office hours please call 0300 4564876

For Devon residents call 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

If you or a child is at immediate risk, please call 999.

If you need support there is lots of helpful information such as websites available <u>Here</u>