10 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have received an increasing number of reports from families who have concerns about their children being contacted by other children and adults via social media platforms outside school time (Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube and Tik Tok etc).

We would like to reassure you that e-Safety is part of the national curriculum and students are receiving a high level of support and education in school in order to make them aware of the possible dangers of speaking online with people they have never met and do not know personally. Tuesday 11 February 2020 is a national "Safer Internet Day 2020" and as such we will be covering a wide range of themes around being safe online.

For children, online life can be real life and we would appreciate your continued support in closely monitoring the content your children are accessing and having frequent, open conversations regarding any concerns you or they may have. If you require any further support around this, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Chesterman, our Parental Involvement Officer, who can provide advice or Sam Halston who is the secondary member of staff with specific responsibility for e-safety. If you have serious or immediate concerns about the content your child is being exposed to or the people making contact with them online, we would ask you to report this to the police.

West Yorkshire Police are currently investigating reports of potential online grooming via Facebook messenger. Police are asking parents to remain vigilant and monitor their children's online activity, specifically focusing on who your child is accepting as a friend. Bradford's PCSO Cyber Team hold regular parent cyber awareness sessions within school and can be contacted via BD.cyberproblemsolvers@westyorkshire.police.uk.

We would like to thank you for your support and remind you that further advice regarding online safety can also be found on the Appleton Academy website in the 'Parents' section.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary