



Mrs S Barham  
Headteacher  
Lampard Community School  
St John's Lane  
Barnstaple  
Devon, EX32 9DD

Patron: Peter Heaton-Jones

Telephone: 01271 345416

e-mail: [admin@lampard.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lampard.devon.sch.uk)

[www.lampard.devon.sch.uk](http://www.lampard.devon.sch.uk)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are aware many of our Upper School students use social media, digital messaging and online gaming to communicate with each other outside school. Whilst there are many positives to this type of communication it can also lead to a number of issues.

During this term we have seen a rise in students who have been upset by other students' use of these platforms to send inappropriate messages, arguing or even making threats. I am sure you will agree this type of communication is unacceptable and has the real potential to cause issues in the wider community.

Whilst this inappropriate use of technology is happening out of school hours, it is increasingly spilling over into the school day, having a negative impact on student friendships as well as on teaching and learning for those involved.

We are committed to teaching our students how to use the internet safely, but out of school hours we ask that you work with us and carefully monitor your child's use of social media. We are able to give you further support/guidance in managing this at home if you need us to; your child's tutor would be the first point of contact

We also ask that you discuss your child's use of social media with them and any issues arising from this. Your child may need to limit their communication with other students e.g. block or not add students to games where the outcome could be negative.

We understand you may be worried about your child's understanding and vulnerability with regards to online safety and we have attached a separate list of resources to support you with this in the first instance.

Be reassured that as a school we will continue to support your child in the following ways:

- Through the PSHE and ICT curriculum, we teach students about the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet and other digital platforms.
- Through PSHE and assemblies, we teach students about bullying- including on line bullying.
- We continue to support you when needed with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by your own child or others.
- We continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT in normal school hours and the use of the school email system at all times, and will deal with anything deemed inappropriate.
- We continue to carefully follow school policies and procedures around safeguarding and online safety



Upper School students will be having a visit from PC Barker, Youth Intervention Officer from Devon and Cornwall police on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This is an opportunity for students to understand the role of the Police and how the Police can help them. In light of recent events, we have asked PC Barker to discuss issues around the misuse of technology.

We are working with families to resolve this particular matter. While these issues do not involve all Upper School students, these resources are useful in supporting all children with being safer online.

We are hoping these issues can be resolved with us supporting you to help and monitor the students at home. However, we will invite families in to school to discuss additional support and strategies if guidance and support provided is not effective in preventing this type of behaviour.

Kind regards,



Tamsin Winter  
Assistant Headteacher