

24 January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

There has been a recent incident where a student has sent an indecent image ('nude' or 'semi-nude') of themselves over social media to another student outside school. This image has then been shared with other pupils who in turn have shared onwards.

Responding to incidents of sharing 'nudes' or 'semi-nudes' is complex because of the legal status. Making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18, which is indecent, is illegal. This includes imagery of yourself if you are under 18. This means children and young people who share 'nudes' and 'semi-nudes' of themselves, or their peers, are breaking the law.

As a school, our immediate focus is on safeguarding students when an incident of this nature is brought to our attention. As a consequence, today we held 'Stop the Clock Assemblies' for all year groups to again remind students of the risks associated with sharing imagery online, the legal position and staying safe.

Marshland also explores online safety from Year 7 through to Year 11 in our PSHCE programme focusing on the following areas:

Year 7 – Media and online behaviour

Year 8 – Media and relationships

Year 9 – Sex, relationships and the media; How to use the media safely

Year 10 – Extreme behaviours

Year 11 – Harassment

Throughout the year, we also have dedicated assemblies and Super Learning Days where we work in partnership with outside agencies to deliver messages / key information on staying safe.

As parents and carers it is important that you are aware of how your child is using social media, other online platforms and the content they are able to access at their fingertips. Our website provides useful links including:

[Pocket Guide to Social Media Safeguarding](#)

[Sexting Leaflet](#)

[Child Safety On Line](#)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<http://www.bbfc.co.uk/>

Further advice and support is also available from our pastoral team.

Yours sincerely

Mr James Crawley

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