



The Hayfield School

📍 The Hayfield School, Hurst Lane,
Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3HG
Headteacher: Lisa Fox
☎ 01302 770589
✉ office@thehayfieldschool.co.uk
🌐 www.thehayfieldschool.co.uk

31 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The ever advancing world of online technology has many beneficial possibilities for our students, especially with the recent much publicised advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). Many of our students use online technologies to support their learning, communicate with friends and to share appropriate content. The growing use of online technology both highlights the importance that these innovations can have in developing digital literacy skills, whilst calling attention to the often worrying potential pitfalls of using digital methods to socialise.

Safer Internet Day 2024:

Safer Internet Day takes place at the start of February each year to raise the awareness of a safer and better internet for all, especially young people navigating their way through a digital age. This year's theme focuses on young people, schools and parents working "together for a better internet". We will be highlighting the importance of online safety on Monday 5 February as part of Fox News, Stop the Clock activities in ICT and Computing lessons and bespoke assemblies for each year group in the week immediately after half-term.

Although most social media and AI websites stipulate that users must be at least 13 years old to create an account, we are aware that the large majority of our students use popular platforms such as Snap-Chat, Instagram, Tik-Tok and Chat GPT on a daily basis. Whilst some of these platforms are great for socialising and can provide a creative outlet for young people, regular use can often lead to issues surrounding cyberbullying and can cause young people to become detached from reality. It is important that we work together to support our young people with their online wellbeing and give them the tools necessary to navigate this ever changing digital world.

Our Curriculum:

Students are taught the importance of online safety throughout their time at The Hayfield School both through our Character and Culture Curriculum and ICT and Computing lessons. Our Character and Culture curriculum considers the impact that online technologies can have on student health and wellbeing, whilst giving students advice relating to staying safe to promote their online wellbeing. Our planned Character and Culture Day in June will give students an opportunity to learn more about 'cyber prevent' and 'cyber protection' with an exciting visit from Cyber Blue Line and their community engagement vehicle: [Cyber Blue Line](#)

Cyber Security is a key cornerstone of our ICT and Computing curriculum and is covered each year at Key Stage 3 and in Key Stage 4 Computer Science lessons. Our

• Kindness • Decency • Strong Work Ethic •

learning journey differentiates online safety concepts to meet the needs of specific cohorts of students:

Year 7 - Online-Safety 1.0:

Students in Year 7 consider their use of online communication methods and identify the potential advantages and pitfalls of living in a digital world, whilst identifying methods to stay safe online. The curriculum includes a clear focus on cyberbullying and its links to our school's '10 things to remember' to promote kindness and decency across the school.

Year 8 - Online-Safety 2.0:

Students in Year 8 consider their own digital footprint and the potential impact it can have on their aspirations and life after school. Social influencers like Andrew Tate can have a major impact on a student's own views of themselves and future decisions; Online-Safety 2.0 looks to identify the positive and negative impact that famous 'content-creators' can have on society.

Year 9 - Cyber-Security 1.0:

Students in Year 9 build on knowledge gained from previous years to consider the impact of social engineering and different forms of online 'attacks' on society, whilst also considering the growing innovations in the use of Artificial Intelligence. A hands-on approach to teaching encryption gives students the opportunity to consider the impact that historic 'code-breakers' like Alan Turing have had, whilst identifying the growing need for 'White-Hat Hackers' to protect our digital world.

Parent/Carer Advice:

It can often be daunting to keep up with the ever changing world of online communication, especially when our young people seem to know more about innovations than we do. Parental and Carer support can be found through the 'saferinternet' website, which offers up-to-date advice on a whole host of devices that are used by young people to access the Internet and 'quick guides' relating to popular social media: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

The National College also produces excellent online safety weekly publications (#WakeupWednesday), which cover all the latest online technologies that young people are using and give excellent advice on how to support them. Latest editions consider the impact of the new 'teen' dating application 'MYLOL' and gives parent/carers advice on "what they need to know", setting parental controls on new devices and managing screen-time: [Online Safety Training For Schools](#)

The ever changing world of digital communication can often be daunting for young people as well as their teachers, parents and carers. By working together we can help protect the online wellbeing of our young people and build a better digital footprint for all.

Yours faithfully



Mr Parry
Associate Assistant Headteacher