

Lancaster Royal Grammar School

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Dr D R Rowe Head of Boarding

25.11.22

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to enlist your support in safeguarding the health and well-being of your son/daughter. Clearly we take this matter very seriously as I am sure you do and I am sure that by working together we can be more effective as a team.

The school network has internet filtering and reporting software. This is to prevent access to inappropriate material. However, it is more difficult to keep boys and girls safe from such material if they choose to access it using their mobile device via a 3G or 4G network. Clearly if we have evidence of boys or girls making such access we will act and for example confiscate the device. However, prevention is better than cure and I ask you to ensure that any settings on the device or in setting up a new contract or in a contract renewal are set so as to achieve this aim. Likewise apps such as Netflix have parental controls to restrict age-inappropriate content. It is possible for you to review what your son/daughter has been watching on Netflix and to discuss with him/her the appropriateness of this content. Games and social media also have age restrictions, we ask you to respect these and not to provide your son/daughter with age inappropriate software. Whatsapp has raised its age limit to 16 whilst Snapchat and Instagram are from age 13. Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty are limited to over 18 whereas Fortnite is from age 12.

The boarding network is switched off at 23:00 in order to facilitate a good night's sleep. Housemasters collect in mobile devices of Y7-11 but not the sixth form at lights out for this purpose also. Some boys, however, seek to circumvent this system by the possession of more than one device and to hand in a 'burner' so they can keep accessing the internet after lights out. Please can you make sure that boys and girls do not return to school with such an additional device. If you feel that they do need additional machines then please discuss this with the housemaster and make arrangements with him so that it cannot be used for such a nefarious purpose. Please have a look at the links below which you may find useful to keep your son/daughter safe on the internet. You may need to paste them into your browser.

Government Guidance (Updates Feb 2021 and has a number of useful links/resources for parents):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

Internet Matters (a one-stop-shop for parents: online issues, advice by age, setting controls, guides and resources): <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Childnet (includes guidance in different languages): <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

CEOP (National Crime Agency resources and useful for reporting concerns about children):

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

Yours sincerely,

David Rowe