

16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Radicalisation and extremism

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This month's safeguarding and wellbeing focus is around the topic of radicalisation and extremism. Whilst many are self-isolating and socially distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are all becoming more and more reliant on communicating online. Last month I sent you information about what to look for when supporting your child in their online world. As terrorism once again raises its head in Europe, it is important that we talk to our young people about how to protect themselves from extremism and radicalisation. This month the staff at LDE UTC will receive PREVENT training from the Local Authority. This is a mandatory part of our safeguarding processes and we update our training every two years. You can find out more about the Prevent strategy here <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/prevent-an-introduction/>

I have found the following website <https://www.ltai.info> particularly useful when putting together assemblies and lessons and there are some useful videos to help you inform yourself before talking to your child. This video in particular I found really chilling <https://youtu.be/Ogw5y7S3VOc> and reminds us as parents to take an interest in our children's online gaming life.

A number of radicalisation risks have become apparent over the course of the pandemic. As our young people spend more time online they may have been more exposed to misleading and hateful content. Young people may have been exposed to fake stories or conspiracy theories about COVID-19, which attribute blame on minority groups. They may have become exposed to or engaged with extremist organisations or individuals, again online. The pandemic may have also increased the vulnerability to radicalisation as children and young people may have felt increasingly more isolated.

It is vital therefore that we all work together to ensure that our young people are well informed and able to make the right decisions. Over the course of this term, we will be looking at some of these challenging topics in our Learning 4 Life sessions.

I have also attached a document entitled "Top tips to help parents discuss radicalisation and extremism with young people" to support you in having these conversations at home.

With everything that is going on in the world it is sometimes difficult to focus on all the positives. Please find attached our Teaching and Learning newsletter detailing some of the activities that our learners have been involved in over the course of last half term.

Kind Regards



Gloria Gold

Vice Principal – Personal Development