

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### Safeguarding and Wellbeing update

Firstly we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We are very pleased that our learners have returned with a positive mindset in readiness for what will be a challenging term, not least as the number of infections due to the new Covid variant within the local area is increasing rapidly. Learners in many year groups have formal external examinations starting this week and then we go into mock exam season for our Year 11, Year 12 Level 2 and Year 13 learners.

At the end of last term, the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, published a guidance document for parents helping to support them to understand online sexual harassment. It is a sensitive topic, and not one all parents feel comfortable discussing with their children.

The commissioner's team brought together a group of 16 - 21 year olds and asked them talk about what they think parents should know, and what they should say to their children when talking about sexualised bullying and the pressures of growing up online.

Key advice from the young adults in the focus groups included:

- Start conversations early, before your child gets a phone or social media account.
- Keep the conversation going over time, adapting to your child.
- Young people want their parents to learn about new technology and trends, including risky behaviours and dangerous spaces online.
- Create a safe and trusting home environment.
- Young people told us the home environment is key, they want to share things with their parents but don't always feel able.

The report and poster 'The things I wish my parents had known...' can be downloaded here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

As a college we regularly touch on these topics through our Learning for Life programme and have already discussed some aspects of online safety with all year groups.

As always if you have a concern regarding your child's online behaviour, please contact the relevant Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours Sincerely



Gloria Gold  
Vice Principal – Personal Development and Wellbeing