








31 March 2020

## Be SMART...Be Safe Online

Dear Families

The digital age is now firmly with us and the current coronavirus outbreak has increased awareness of the possibilities of online learning. However, it is important that we ensure students and families remain safe in this online digital environment.

It can be hard to know how to talk to your child about online safety and so we have tried to make our guidance as straightforward as possible.

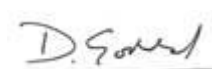
	<b>Safe</b> Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number or password.
	<b>Meeting</b> Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers, even if you have been talking to them for a long time.
	<b>Accepting</b> Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
	<b>Reliable</b> Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be trustworthy. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. If you like chatting online, it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family.
	<b>Tell</b> Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

We would also encourage families to check with their broadband providers in terms of what parental settings and controls they can help you set in order to increase online protection. Parental controls help you to block or filter upsetting or inappropriate content, and control purchases within apps. You can install parental control software on your child's and family's phones or tablets, games consoles, laptops and your home internet.

Further guidance can also be found on the NSPCC website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>.

If you require additional support in relation to online safety please do not hesitate to contact your child's Director of House.

Yours faithfully



Mr David Goddard  
Deputy Headteacher