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Dear Parent / Carers

As you are no doubt aware there have been a lot of reports surrounding internet safety and usage for young people, with parents being largely unaware of what their children are accessing. The benefits of using technology are vast however, we are very aware of the need to protect our children.

We have recently had children using Google + and YouTube to contact one another and to make comments about people which has caused friction at school. We have been reiterating to our children that what they write is out there once it is sent and that it can be monitored and used as evidence against them.

Current problems arising from technology are:

- Messaging through Google+, this is bypassing the need to text, therefore opening other avenues of communication. These messages should appear in the linked e mail account, however they may be password protected linked to a mobile phone.
- Comments on YouTube videos, some students have YouTube accounts, which they use to post videos. These can be accessed by anyone who searches for them. Comments can be left about the videos, which can be nice or nasty. You do not have to have a YouTube account to access these videos. You can also see other people's history, resulting in exposure to what other people watch. There are often links to other areas of technology such as facebook on these links, which means your child may be talking to someone they do not know on a regular basis.
- Oovoo. I wrote recently in the newsletter that Oovoo is being used by our students, however it is not a secure site and strangers can target users.

We have had incidents of students giving out their friends contact details for some of these sites, which again is unsafe.

I have attached a link below that can guide parents through ways of ensuring internet safety at home, I hope you find it as informative and useful as I have. <http://www.google.co.uk/safetycenter/families/start/>

If you have any concerns about this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Mr Waller will be running an internet safety workshop for parents on Wednesday 9th March from 4 – 5pm at school, please contact the office to book yourself a place.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Hayward
Assistant Headteacher



“Valuing every achievement”