Online Safety: Parent and Carer Newsletter Summer 2022

Welcome to our final e safety update for the academic year! The Summer break is almost upon us and with it there are the challenges around how much time to spend using screens.

Students have been visited by the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit and listened to a useful talk on malicious on line communications. They received lots of helpful advice on how to stay e safe and what to do in case any issues arise. We look forward to working with you all next academic year, to ensure a safe online experience for all our students.

Hillcrest top tips for a safer online summer

Students will have extra time during the Summer and some of our young people will chose to spend this online.
Staff have compiled a list of handy hints to make sure your summer is as e safe a possible:

Remember you can leave a group chat or block anybody who is being unkind or talking inappropriately.

Make sure you have the correct privacy settings so posts are only visible to those that are known and trusted.

Taking photos is a great way of making memories. Do be cautious about how these are shared. They can hold lots of clues that may give away personal information

Concerned and need to report?

Find it at the bottom of our school home page.

Tips for Safe Online gaming

- Check the games content
- Beware
- Talk to your child regularly
- Beware of Clickbait and report any unsuitable links

Keeping in touch (virtually)!

Social media and staying in touch

During the summer holidays, young people may want to keep in touch with their friends through social networking sites or games. It's a good time to ask them about what sites they use, and check any age requirements as many social media sites require users to be at least 13 years old

Encourage your children to use the privacy tools on the services they use, so that the content they post is only available to people they know and trust in real life. To help your children set these up, we have a guide to the privacy settings on the different sites . You can also download the UK Safer Internet Centre's safety checklists for popular sites such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook.

We are also reminding all students not to arrange real life meet ups with unfamiliar people who have contacted them online. Social media is a useful way of making arrangements with friends, but not for being contacted by strangers or arranging to meet them in person.

The NSPCC has lots of useful resources and ideas for staying safe online. This can be accessed using the link below.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Do contact us if you would like any further information- Stay Safe!