



Fulford School

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11 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In recent City of York surveys it has been clear that students are becoming more careful and aware regarding safe use of the Internet. A greater proportion of students report securing their social media sites and restricting their electronic contact to people they also know off line in 'real life'.

An exception to this is students use of online gaming where they are much more willing to interact with people they do not know, both in a gaming and conversational basis.

This increases the risk of grooming as no party involved in such contact knows the age or identity of other players. Conversations can lead to the exchanging of personal information and contact beyond the game, even meeting up.

As a city, we see it as important to raise awareness in our students about how to interact in this context safely, and to make them aware of the risks that can exist in these situations.

We are working in partnership with the national charity Breck Foundation to run assemblies with all of our Year 9 students. Students will receive presentations from Lorin Le Farve who runs the charity whose son Breck was tragically murdered by an adult who had groomed him through contact on gaming sites. Students will receive these sessions during the week beginning 25 September.

In addition to the student sessions, we are offering sessions for parents, hosted at Millthorpe School on Monday 25 September at 7pm. This is a session for parents rather than students.

To support the charity's work we will be holding a City Wide 'No Tech for Breck' non-uniform day for all students on Friday 29 September at a cost of £1 per student. In addition to wearing non-uniform all students, teachers and parents are asked to use no social technology for the day including mobiles and tablets.

Students should bring £1 to school that will be taken in as their donation period 1.

More information on the excellent work of the Breck Foundation can be found on their website, <http://www.breckfoundation.org/>

Thank you in advance for supporting our work in this area.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Bodey
Deputy Head