Newsletter 1

QEHS & HMS

Online Safety Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We live in an ever-evolving digital world, and sometimes as parents it feels like it's difficult to keep up. To help you, we are putting together a newsletter of useful links and information.

Guidance from professionals in this field is to keep open conversations with your child about their online activity. Encourage them to talk to you openly about any concerns they may have. We know that, as with many aspects of growing up, they can make mistakes and we need to be there to support them and react in a measured way.

For further help and advice please contact school.

We hope you find the following information helpful.

Kind Regards

Amanda Frankish   David Todd
Hexham Middle School   Queen Elizabeth High School

BBC Own It — Digital Wellbeing App

The BBC have launched a new app for children called *Own It*. The app monitors how young people interact with others online and uses artificial intelligence to evaluate the mood of the child so it can offer advice. For example, if the child types 'you're really stupid' the app will alert the sender and ask if they really want to send. It does a lot more and definitely worth a look.

For more information see here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-49726844

Net Aware

- Keeping children safe online.
- All you need to know about the social networks your children use.
- All Networks A-Z.
- Tips and advice.

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

Help my child to think critically when online

How can parents counter the narrative and encourage 'critical thinking' when it comes to protecting children against extremist influences (on and offline)?

The experts from Internet Matters offer support and insight to get you started.

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/how-can-i-help-my-child-to-think-critically-to-protect-them-against-extremist-influences/

'Skin Gambling'

In 'skin gambling', gamers exchange virtual goods that they've won or bought in multi-player games for virtual gambling chips. Millions of pounds-worth are being gambled each year, much of it by children and young people.

For more information follow the links below.
https://parentzone.org.uk/article/what-skin-gambling

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/what-are-loot-boxes

Google Family Link — Parental Control Software

Family Link has been around for some time, but has recently had a much-needed update. You can now limit screen time per app (instead of the whole device) as well as track activity, set daily limits, view device location and more.

For more information follow the link below:
https://techcrunch.com/2019/09/18/googles-parental-control-software-family-link-gains-much-needed-features/

Instagram — new app called Threads

Instagram has a feature called 'close friends', which allows a user to create a list and add people to it in order to share stories. Threads capitalises on this feature; it's designed to share images and videos privately to this close friends list, which also means the user is in control of who can and can't be contacted. Essentially, it's private messaging using photos and videos between friends. Given the popularity of Instagram across the age ranges, it'll be worthwhile keeping an eye on this one.

To read more click here:
https://instagram-press.com/blog/2019/10/03/introducing-threads/

Key support websites

- https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

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

- https://www.internetmatters.org/