

Friday, 29 January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support for helping your child engage with their online learning. It has been extremely pleasing to see the high levels of attendance and engagement our students have had with their learning through Google Classroom. Teachers and students alike are coming up with innovative ways to ensure they are getting the most of their education in these challenging times. Students are still accessing the curriculum as if they were at school and teachers are ensuring that they are not missing out on any knowledge or skills they would have otherwise acquired. This is an accomplishment worth sharing and being proud of together.

However, as our young people are spending more time on their devices, it is important to reiterate the importance of checking that students are staying safe online. While they are accessing google classroom and spending time in their virtual lessons, this is a safe and secure online environment. However, we always need to be mindful of the dangers of spending large amounts of time online and to be vigilant and aware of what students are using the internet for.

With this in mind we wanted to bring to your attention a few resources that you can use to help ensure that students remain safe and protected online. Your Internet Service Provider: the company that provides your internet, will operate specific safety protocols around what you can and cannot access and will also allow you to set up parental locks. A number of electronic devices will also allow you to do this yourself on the device and a number of anti-virus systems will also help you to set up locks and blocks on certain types of content. Similarly, sites such as YouTube will allow you to set up parental features directly through the website to protect against harmful content.

These two websites will help provide specific help should you want more information:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Please also be aware of age restrictions on certain apps and we would encourage you to have conversations with your children about the information that they are accessing online and the apps and websites that are being used.

Thank you once again for all of your support with our online provision and I hope you stay safe and stay well.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr A Barzey
Headteacher
Heron Hall Academy

