



VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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14th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our safeguarding systems and procedures have been updated to ensure your child feels safe and enjoys coming to Verulam.

For those of you that may not be aware, I am the **Designated Senior Lead (DSL)** for safeguarding at the school, which means I have overall responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of all the students. I am supported by seven Deputy DSLs. Our Safeguarding Team consists of:

Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding

- Mr Flack, Deputy Headteacher

Deputy Designated Senior Leads for Safeguarding:

- Miss Richardson, Headteacher
- Mr MacKenzie, Assistant Headteacher
- Miss Perry, Assistant Headteacher
- Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form
- Mr Halsall, Head of Year
- Mrs Moss, Pastoral Officer
- Mrs Morrison, Safeguarding Officer

If you wish to contact me or one of the team, you may

email: safeguarding@verulam.herts.sch.uk or concern@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Further information can be found in our [safeguarding booklet](#) and in more detail in our [Safeguarding Policy](#).

All students are taught about keeping themselves and others safe across the whole-school curriculum; through our PSHE programme, in assemblies, in tutor time, in Curriculum Enrichment Days and through our External Speaker Programme.

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One of our aims this year is to educate students and parents/carers on the dangers associated with technology or the use of online platforms.

This area focuses on the four Cs:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.

Conduct: online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying.

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Please look out for our #WakeUpWednesday which is shared with all parents and carers via ParentMail. These are different each week and are produced by National Online Safety to support adults and children to avoid online dangers.

Verulam is part of The CEOP System (Child Exploitation and Online Protection command)

CEOP is a command of the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), and is tasked to work both nationally and internationally to bring online child sex offenders, including those involved in the production, distribution and viewing of child abuse material, to the UK courts. To report an incident of this nature, please visit our website: <https://verulamschool.co.uk/online-safety/> or find out more information on: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Verulam now uses The SHARP System

Promoting the **Equality Act 2010** is important to us and we have educated staff and students about the **9 Protected Characteristics** and how to report any form of discrimination or harmful behaviour. This year we have introduced the SHARP system to support this.

SHARP allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear. Aside from the reporting tool SHARP delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health,

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Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime. This can be found on the Safeguarding section of our website: <https://verulamschool.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Concerning material targeting young boys

During the summer break, schools across the globe have been made aware of an individual, Andrew Tate, who has been banned from holding an account on TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter because of his extremist views regarding gender roles, race and homosexuality. Despite this, his videos have been widely shared, particularly on TikTok.

Some parents/carers may be unfamiliar with this platform but it is widely used by young people and features an algorithm that repeatedly exposes users to videos similar to ones that they have previously viewed. Therefore, if a child has watched a video featuring Andrew Tate, they are likely to be exposed to several more.

This is incredibly concerning as such views can influence and damage impressionable young people and risk affecting their future relationships and employability if they develop such extremist views.

We recommend that if your child has TikTok, you look at their account to see what type of videos appear and to ensure that they are not following harmful accounts or engaging in any behaviours online that are in breach of the **Malicious Communications Act 1988** and **The Communications Act 2003**.

Each week we will continue to send out our **#WakeUpWednesday** information sheet from National Online Safety so that you can stay informed about how to keep your child safe online and keep your knowledge of apps and threats up to date.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A. Flack

Deputy Headteacher & Designated Senior Lead

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