

Safeguarding Newsletter 1

Welcome to my first safeguarding newsletter. As new assistant headteacher and the school's designated safeguarding lead, I take my role very seriously and believe informing both students and parents/carers of safeguarding issues is an ideal way helping our students to stay safe and well.

Throughout the year we will provide education and training in a variety of themes, to encourage students to feel safe and to signpost them to areas of support if they have concerns. This term we have covered many issues including; the prevent duty and extremism, safe use of social media, anti-bullying, healthy relationships and positive mental health. Many of these and more were covered during the excellent "*diversity day*" organised by Mrs Powell. We have also had several students becoming *Anti-Bullying Ambassadors* and will be trained through the Princess Diana Award in the new year.

This week's focus was "*staying safe over the Christmas period*". During this break, students will have more recreation time and with this, presents possible concerns. Our top tips for staying safe on the streets are:

- ✳ **Be prepared** – know where you are going, have your phone charged, keep home in the loop and let them know where you are, stick to times given by home
- ✳ **Be aware** – don't walk around with headphones on and music playing, especially when crossing roads
- ✳ **Hide it** – keep all valuables hidden away and not on show, if you do have valuables out keep them in front of you and not in your back pocket
- ✳ **Safety in numbers** – where possible don't walk around on your own
- ✳ **Keep away from places of danger** – stay away from railway lines, open water (including frozen water), parks when dark and other area that can be dangerous
- ✳ **Public transport** – if you are travelling by bus or train make sure you know the times and when to get off, sit near the front and keep all valuables with you
- ✳ **Social media** – be mindful what you place on social media, especially sharing pictures of new presents

For more information, refer to the following website <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/violence/stay-safe/>

Parents/Carers Section (Social Media and Gaming)

During the festive period, your child will have more free time and this is often taken up on games and social media. Research and experience informs us that whilst they can be enjoyable and a great way of staying in contact with friends, they can also lead to poor sleep, temper outbursts and friendship issues.

If you would like more information, please click on the following link that provides a practical guide for those whose children use social media <https://pwxp5srs168nsac2n3fnjyaa-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Official-UK-Social-Media-Guidance.pdf>

Can I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas. If you have any questions or concerns, or safeguarding topics you would like us to consider, please contact me at school on 01543 622600 or through our email, office@nortoncanes-high.staffs.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Mr Stokes

Assistant Headteacher (inclusion)

"a vigilant school is a safer school"