



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **THE E-WISE BEACON**

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT HOW WE KEEP BOYS SAFE AT SCHOOL**

Boys using our computer systems on site are protected in a number of different ways, whether they are day boys or boarders. We take a belt and braces approach to online access, with all our machines running separate website content filtering software and monitoring software. Website filtering is managed through Sophos which prohibits boys from accessing sites with malicious, undesirable or illegal content, and in addition to this, SENSO monitors all content on boys' screens and all content typed at the keyboard, whether on a website, on a desktop app like Word or in an email. This can be manually, with a teacher or other designated staff actively monitoring the boys' screens during lessons or other times, or automatically in the background, with content compared against extensive lists of control words. There are several lists maintained by SENSO, including lists for extremism, pornography, bullying and self-harm, gambling, etc. Captures are reviewed by the Head of ICT (Mark O'Prey) on a regular basis and any concerns dealt with through pastoral channels.

Additionally, boys can only send and receive emails and Teams messages to and from other users in the New Beacon institution. This is to protect boys from unwanted, possibly malicious, contact outside the school. Your child, therefore, will not interact with anyone outside of the school, with contact being limited to his teachers and peers. Ordinarily, teachers will only contact your son regarding matters of work, lessons, etc. No staff will contact your son for any other reason, for example, with personal messages or social "messages", etc. To further safeguard your son, staff can access all emails sent from or received by every pupil, so any concerns can be properly investigated.

While we do not use a 'white-list' system, thanks to the filtering and monitoring systems protecting our boys, they are unlikely to access material beyond the scope of their lessons plus a few permitted games websites and video-hosting sites for those times when downtime is permitted! While it is almost impossible to provide a comprehensive list of all the sites your son might access, they will be making extensive use of Bing and Google searches, Wikipedia, IMDB.com plus other research websites, YouTube, the BBC website, English Type Junior, etc.

If you require any clarification or further explanations, or if have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your son's digital interactions, please do not hesitate to get in touch

**Head** Sarah Brownsdon BA (Hons)

with [Mark O'Prey](#), our Head of ICT. As Mr O'Prey teaches every boy from Year 1 to Year 8, he will have a very good understanding of your son's digital interactions and will be happy to help you in any way he can.

### **COMMON SENSE MEDIA**

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

Highly recommended!

If your child asks you if they can use an app, or if you discover an app on their device that you don't recognise, it is worth looking it up on Common Sense Media. Common Sense Media will tell you what the app is about, it will inform you of any concerns, and you will be able to look at reviews left by other parents.

### **NATIONAL HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 14th -21st October 2023**

Oct 14-21<sup>st</sup> is Hate Crime Awareness Week, originally set up in 2009 to mark the 10th anniversary of the London Nail Bomb attacks in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho.

The educate.against.hate website from the DfE has resources for teachers and parents and can be found here: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

### **INTERNET MATTERS**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Highly recommended!

Age-specific related information created specifically for parents. It includes information to set up devices.

### **DIGITAL PARENTING MAGAZINE**

The Digital Parenting magazine is the most useful, informative, helpful, well-written, well-presented, user-friendly online-safety resource I have seen to date. I recommend that all families look at the Digital Parenting magazine. It is equally relevant to parents of infants as it is to parents of teenagers.

Articles in the most recent edition include:

- Tech tips to keep your child's study routines on target
- Child's First Phone : The dilemma worrying so many parents
- New parental controls available on Instagram and Messenger

You can read it online: <http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/learning-and-fun/digital-parenting-magazine.html>

**Kind regards,**

**Christina Alteirac**

Head of Pre Prep and Junior School/ Designated Safeguarding Lead