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Our ref: CF/CH

11 January 2021

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson
Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

Dear Parents/Carers

Important online safety advice

This letter follows one sent to you late last week. All online lessons from Newfield School are provided within a platform called Microsoft 365. Within this are robust online safety systems that protect children by blocking access to inappropriate content.

Late last week we were made aware that a student had inadvertently accessed an inappropriate website at the same time as they were learning at home. We take safeguarding extremely seriously and as you would expect, have investigated this incident very thoroughly...

We wanted to understand if this problem had occurred from the school online lesson (e.g. a breach in our online safety systems) or through another route? At the time we suspected that the issue may have been linked to YouTube.

We have now completed the investigation and are confident that the incident did not emanate from within the online lesson content, and did not breach our online safety systems. However, we have identified how this occurred and wish to draw your attention to this risk.

When we browse the internet, the sites we visit create 'pop ups' or adverts or links, that can subsequently appear on the device. A device could be a personal phone, laptop / desktop computer or tablet. These 'pop ups' can often be helpful, e.g. providing links to the latest news, or football scores or special offers, but occasionally are more sinister, and disguised as something they are not.

Unfortunately during the lesson we have investigated, the student inadvertently clicked on a 'pop up' on their mobile device (a phone) that was linked to an inappropriate site.

We therefore ask that all students, whether they are engaged in home learning, or accessing the internet at any other time, are aware of 'pop ups', adverts and links that may appear, and do not click on these.



We intend to provide further advice to students tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. French', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Chris French
CEO Mercia Learning Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Dawson', with a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Simon Dawson
Interim Co-Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jenkinson', with a large 'C' and 'J' and a horizontal line at the end.

Chris Jenkinson
Interim Co-Headteacher