



Online Safety Newsletter

Welcome

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Helston Community College Online Safety Newsletter. This termly newsletter will keep you up to date with the latest Online Safety issues, from Social Media to The Dark Web, and tips on how to keep you and your children safe in an increasingly digital world.

The Importance of a good online reputation

As schools and employers turn to the internet to find out more about potential candidates, it's clear that what we post online can have a real impact on our lives offline. So, helping children to understand the long-lasting effects of what they share and empowering them to take control of how their online reputation is created is key. Here are some ways to create a positive online reputation:

Private can mean Public

Even best friends pass on messages you've asked them not to, accounts and profiles get hacked, and companies can change their privacy policies. Children should never post anything online they don't want thousands of people, including their family, to see.

GDPR update

What does GDPR mean for me?

Every company that holds any data on you is now subject to much stricter regulations. They must tell you what data they have on you if it is requested and they cannot add you to lists or track your data without your prior approval.

The new regulations also mean that your data cannot be sent to other countries/companies that do not

Maintain positive online behaviour and social media profiles

Students should be aware of how they use social media never post anything they or their parents/carers wouldn't want employers or schools to see.

Think before they share

Everyone should understand that their actions online can affect both themselves and others. Individuals should never post pictures or say anything about anyone they wouldn't want displayed or said about themselves – and remember that any comments may reflect on individuals for years to come. Liking or commenting on a derogatory post can have the same damaging effect.

The College monitors social media for safeguarding purposes and to check that students are using it appropriately and responsibly. If parents/carers or students discover inappropriate posts they should contact the College.

Students who are involved in posting images or comments of derogatory nature about any member of the College community will face a range of sanctions, including exclusion from the College. We may also report our findings to the police.

Build a positive online presence

Individuals can use their online presence to build a positive reputation for themselves – for instance by writing a blog on a topic individuals are passionate about.

Deactivate and delete unused or incorrect profiles

When an individual stops using a social networking profile or website, it's a good idea to deactivate or delete their account. However, make sure you're fully informed – as deleting doesn't always prevent information from being shared (e.g. Google keeps collecting information even after the app has been deleted).

internet matters.org

Some of the information for these articles has been sourced from the internet matters website. This has a wealth of clear advice and guidance for students, parents and carers.

have appropriate, GDPR compliant, data protection rules or regulations.

Right to erasure—This means that individuals have the right to request that all of personal data is deleted from a company's records—As long as it is not still necessary to provide any requested service. i.e. in a school, your records would be required to allow your child to attend classes at the school.

For photographs or videos, the College will seek consent from pupils over 13 or their parents for younger pupils, on an annual basis. This will allow pupils and parents the right to give consent for the manner in which this form of personal data is processed and shared.

For more information please see the data protection policy on our website.

“Fortnite”



Image Source: Epic Games

Fortnite is a free, popular, online game, offering voice communications and microtransactions

You may have heard your child talk about Fortnite, a popular game that is taking the internet by storm. Fortnite is an online, free to play, multiplayer survival game in which a group of up to four players can play together to try and be the “last team standing” as a storm closes in on the small island, that acts as the playfield. “What does this have to do with online safety?” you might be asking. There are a few possible reasons for concern.

Other Players

In the standard game modes, if you are not part of a team with four friends, then random players that are waiting to play are added to your group to boost the numbers. The game’s primary method of communication is voice chat, which can expose your child to

bad language, adult humour and verbal abuse from overly aggressive players. While, in this writer’s experience, this is rare and most people co-operate happily and the chat stays light hearted and/or remains about the gameplay or tactics.

Cartoon Violence

While violence in games is nothing new, the whole point of this game is to kill off other players with a variety of weapons, from pickaxes to mini-guns, with the goal to be the last team standing. There is no gore in the game, each hit is just represented by a number popping up, and when a player runs out of health they simply get beamed off the playfield.

Micro-transactions

Being a free game, there is

support for purchasing an in-game currency (v-bucks) to buy upgrades or additional challenges. While these are optional and only offer cosmetic changes, many players find the character customization adds more fun and excitement to the game. 1000 V-bucks cost, at the time of writing, £7.99. Additional content, such as the “Battle Pass” which offers new challenges and free unlockables as you play, costs 950 v-bucks for each season, which lasts for a period of around 10 weeks. However, some of the non-free costumes you can get can cost 1500 or more. It is always worth making sure that your child is not over-spending, as many players have got carried away with their purchases and can spend £100s per month.

Facebook's Web-Tracking Tools

The current version of iOS and macOS "will frustrate tools used by Facebook to automatically track web users". At the company's developer conference, Apple's software chief Craig Federighi said, "We're shutting that down", adding that Safari, the Apple web browser, would ask owners' permission before allowing the social network to monitor their activity.

Why is this important?

You may have noticed, while looking at various sites on the internet, that many sites employ Facebook “like” buttons or

comment sections. These buttons are loaded from Facebook’s servers and they can be used to track your activity across the internet - building up a profile of your habits and then used to show you targeted adverts. If you have ever been to a product site and then, later in the day, seen an advert for the exact same product on Facebook—this is not a coincidence. This is a result of the web tracking from all these little buttons and comment sections. While you can often

delete “cookies” from your computer to remove a lot of this tracking, there is also a method called “fingerprinting”, which uses data that your machine sends, through various addons—such as Flash and Java, to get information about your machine that will 99.99% of the time, identify your machine in a unique way without cookies.

The upcoming Safari update is also going to add security features to help prevent fingerprinting from being effective on the majority of devices.



Web Tracking will be harder to do on newer iOS and MacOS versions

Anti-Bullying Week 2018

As part of anti-bullying week last week, students received advice of the action they can take if they are experiencing any unwanted comments online.

If your child is upset by something they’ve experienced online but seems to be handling

the situation then advice you can give includes:

It may be tempting but don’t retaliate. This can have unpredictable consequences, can make arguments last longer and make it harder to see who’s in the wrong.

Shut down arguments online before they take hold. Try not to involve lots of others in online

arguments. This includes being careful what they post, what they share, and knowing when to leave a group chat or change the conversation.

Ask people to take down hurtful or offensive content. Your child may be successful by simply being honest about how they feel, particularly if the perpetrator didn’t mean to cause them harm.

To report any concerns to the College, ask to see child’s tutor, or Head of Progress. It is really helpful to bring evidence. Keep a record of events and any evidence, such as printouts of screenshots and saved messages.

The College will work with the students to resolve the situation and a range of sanctions, including exclusions will be used. We may also inform the police.