



15th December 2023

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the festive season and term 2 draws to a close, I wanted to write and draw to your attention some key information the safeguarding and inclusion team feels is important to share.

Travelling in the local community

With the colder darker evenings, we are seeing an increase in students taking ‘shortcuts’ travelling to and from the Academy and at other times. It is important for young people to always ensure that they travel along pathways which are well-lit and where there are others around. We recommend that none of our young people travel alone, and they should always travel with friends or family.

We have a small number of young people who also travel by bicycle or scooter. We recently celebrated road safety awareness week in the Academy. Students participated in activities which reminded them of key information on this topic. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the key information covered and would appreciate it if you could also have these conversations at home.

- Always wear a helmet
- Always wear high-visibility clothing
- Remain central to the road and away from gutters / parked cars
- Remain aware of surroundings – avoid wearing headphones which restrict the sense of sound
- Don't cycle on pavements
- Lights and reflectors on the front and rear of the bicycle
- Ensure all valuables such as mobile phones are out of sight when travelling to and from school

Smoothwall – Online iPad Monitoring

You will be aware from our recent communications that as an Academy our responsibility for filtering and monitoring extends to all Academy devices both inside and outside the Academy. This includes when school-issued iPads are being used at home.

Smoothwall is industry-leading software which we have purchased and installed to support with safeguarding our young people online. All students must be aware that their usage is monitored 24 hours a day 7 days a week and breaches of the Acceptable User Policy will lead to sanctions being put in place by the Academy.

Online Safety

Christmas is a time when lots of our young people receive devices that can access social media such as tablets, smartphones, game consoles and laptops.

We're delighted to let you know that Brompton Academy has become a member of The National College – a multi-award-winning online training provider for staff and parents. As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly around online safety and keeping children safe online. Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers. That's why you've now got access to hundreds of courses, explainer videos and online safety guides to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help. Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/brompton-academy> and complete your details. Once you're set-up, you'll be able to choose 'Parent/Carer' as your user type and get instant access to all training and resources.

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want.

You can download the National Online Safety app using the links below:

- [App store](#)
- [Google Play](#)

Support over the holiday period

The Christmas holidays may be something you look forward to, or it may be a time of year you find more challenging.

Be assured there are support mechanisms available in the local community should you require them.

Childline – 0800 1111

The Mix (Mental Health Support for under 25's) – 0800 808 4994 or www.themix.org.uk

Kooth (Mental Health Support) – www.kooth.com

Police / Emergency Services – 999
Police Non-Emergency – 101 ask for Kent Police
National Domestic Violence Helpline – 08082000 247
The Men’s Advice Line – 0808 801 0327
National LGBTQ+ Domestic abuse line – 0800 999 5428

Be aware that Academy e-mails and phone lines are not monitored over the holiday period. If you are concerned about the safeguarding of any child or young person and it is an emergency always report this to 999 in the first instance. If you have a concern about harm or potential harm to a child or young person you can also report this to Medway Children’s Services on their website or by calling 01634 334466.

I appreciate there is a lot of important information within this letter and urge you to keep this in a safe place to refer to later. Please discuss the information contained within this letter at home.

Yours faithfully



Mr Stanley
Vice Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Brompton Academy

