

ST REGIS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

8th November 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR PARRY

It has been a busy but wonderful first week back this week as we start Autumn 2 in full swing at St Regis. We have had Year 10 WEX launched; Sports leaders; Sandwell Charter Mark visits; Year 11 Parents Evening; a History visit to Liverpool to visit the Slavery Museum; and have welcome Year 5 students into school for a local primary school.

Next week is an important week as we actively contribute to Anti-Bullying Week. Whilst this is an important annual awareness-raising week, Anti-Bullying is something we take very seriously all year round here at St Regis and this is summarised perfectly by the theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week being: "Choose Respect". Our approach to the way we do things here at St Regis is encapsulated by our "3 R's", also known as the "St Regis Way". The number one "R" is "Respect Others" and this is something we strive for between staff, students and parents day-in, day-out at our Academy.

Next week we also mark Remembrance Day on Monday 11th November, when we will gather as a whole school to mark a collective moment of reflection and pay our respect as a school community. At a time of global unrest and uncertainty it feels as important as ever to come together as a community and reflect on the huge cost of wars past and present.

Finally, I have some fantastic news. Through our partnership with Splash Swim School, our Head Boy, Elkan, has become the very first successful recipient of a full swim teacher scholarship. Elkan's training course and training hours were paid in full by Splash Swim school and now that he has successfully passed his course he is fully qualified and can start to benefit from future employment opportunities. Both Splash and the STA (Swimming Teachers Association) have been incredibly impressed with Elkan and we are so proud of his achievements.



Mr Parry
Principal



**ST REGIS STARS
OF LAST WEEK!**

YEAR 7 – HADAR O.
YEAR 8 – BAGZADA J.
YEAR 9 – AMANDA N.
YEAR 10 – SHRIYA P.
YEAR 11 – SPECIAL C.
YEAR 12 – KHIRMAN A.
YEAR 13 – ELKAN N.

CHESTER – AMANDA N.
LICHFIELD – SHAWN O.
WORCESTER – KHUSHMEET S.
**HOUSE OF THE WEEK
IS LICHFIELD!**



Year 9's have used relief and counter-relief clay techniques to make clay skulls. We have finished painting these with acrylic paint, making them bright and decorative.

Good work year 9's!



Three Spires | **SIXTH FORM**

TETTENHALL CAMPUS

On Thursday 14th November Three Spires Sixth Form are hosting an Information Evening at Molineux Stadium.

Please visit www.threespiresixth.org to book on to one of the talks!

Could you spot the signs of child Exploitation?

Calling all Parents, Carers and community members

Wolverhampton Partnership Exploitation Hub invite you to join us along with partners from Wolverhampton Homes, Community Safety, West Midlands Police, BASE25 and Wolverhampton 360 to help you recognise the signs of child exploitation, what to do if you are concerned about a child you care for and where to access support in Wolverhampton.

There will be a presentation from Wolverhampton Partnership Exploitation hub at 12:30pm and repeated at 1:30pm

Date: Monday 25th November 2024

Time: Please drop in any time from 12pm – 2:30pm.

Venue: Gloucester Street Community Centre, 1-8 Gloucester Street, WV6 0PT

Refreshments available



CHRISTMAS ROLLER DISCO

This half term our reward activity will be a Roller Disco!

The disco will be held at school on Tuesday 17th December. All students have the opportunity to attend - to be invited, they need to achieve Excellent Attendance, Punctuality and Behaviour Ratio.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Secondary | October 2024



In this issue:

- Image sharing
- Consent
- App focus: Telegram

Image Sharing

With the rise of camera phones and other devices in the last few years, taking photos of themselves and their friends is commonplace amongst young people. These photos are often shared online. In recent years, there has also been an increase in young people asking to share nudes of themselves. This is commonly known as sexting.

There are reasons as to why a young person might agree to sending an image of themselves in this way:

- they may believe they are in a consensual romantic relationship
- they may be pressured, tricked or coerced into sharing an image
- they may be exploited or groomed into sending the images.

The law on image sharing:

In order to protect children, any indecent image of a child (someone under 18) is known as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), even if the image was created by the child themselves (self-generated CSAM). The law states that it is illegal to create or share CSAM. Creating images also includes AI or photoshopped images. The law also includes possession of an image and re-sharing images. Parents should not have images sent to their device, even if the intent is to report the image. Images should be reported to the Police immediately. It is important to note that this law is to protect children, not criminalise those who send images of themselves.

EDUCATE THEM ON THE LAW

Discuss the law with them. It protects them from the pressures of sharing images with real-life friends, as well as protecting them from the risk of exploitation.



USE PLATFORM SAFETY FEATURES

Make sure children are aware of how to report and block any inappropriate content they may receive. Review the various privacy settings available on the apps they use.

IMAGE SHARING KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENTS

OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Educate children on personal boundaries by letting them know they are never obligated to share images of themselves. Also, remind them not to request images from others.



ONLINE PREDATORS

It's important to have conversations with children about the distinction between online friends and genuine, real-life friendships.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Understanding consent

Consent is the explicit, informed and voluntary agreement to engage in a particular activity, often referring to sexual interactions, but it also applies to other areas such as relationships, sharing personal boundaries and decision making. For children, this means ensuring that they have the capacity to give consent without feeling pressured, coerced or manipulated.

Why is it important for young people to understand consent?

- Teaching consent encourages children to respect their own and others' physical and emotional boundaries.
- Consent fosters open communication, mutual respect and equality in relationships.
- Educating teenagers about consent helps prevent situations of sexual assault, harassment and coercion.
- Understanding consent gives teenagers the tools to make informed choices about their body and relationships.
- Consent creates a culture of respect which helps to reduce harmful behaviours like victim-blaming.

The Four C's of consent help children to know if consent has been or is still being given:

- **Clear:** Yes means yes. If it isn't a yes, it's a no.
- **Continuous:** Keeping check that it is still a yes; yes now doesn't mean yes later.
- **Coercion-free:** It isn't yes if pressure has been put on someone to do something.
- **Conscious:** The person giving consent must be fully capable of giving consent.

What parents and carers should know about Telegram

This summer, Telegram made the headlines when its owner was arrested. Although it may not be the most popular messaging app among young people, it is considered one of the fastest-growing platforms. While there are many discussions surrounding the risks associated with using Telegram, here are some key points to keep in mind:

4 WAYS TO TEACH CONSENT TO TEENAGERS

Teaching children about consent is vital for fostering respect and responsibility. Here are some effective strategies.

MODEL

 Model consent in everyday situations. An example of this might be to ask for a hug.

TALK

 Talk about what consent looks like in relationships. Use TV shows or news articles as conversation starters.

RESPECT





 Emphasise mutual respect, taking into consideration seeking and giving consent.

DISCUSS

 Discuss the legal aspect of consent, as well as the emotional impact of not gaining consent.

Keeping your child safe is our number one priority at St Regis Academy. You can contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or the Designated Safeguarding Leads if you have any concerns or questions by emailing: admin@stregisacademy.org. If it is urgent, please call the school and ask for a DSL.

RISKS TO CONSIDER IF YOUR CHILD USES TELEGRAM

 END-TO-END ENCRYPTION	 SELF-DESTRUCTING MESSAGES	 LARGE GROUP CHATS	 LOCAL CONNECTIONS
Private conversations known as 'Secret Chats' can only be accessed by the participants. This puts children at risk.	A timer can be set when sending a message in a Secret Chat which will then self-destruct/disappear.	Group chats known as Channels can include up to 200,000 participants. This allows for unregulated conversations.	'People Nearby' connects users locally, but may expose children to grooming and exploitation risks.



From the Chaplain...

It has been a real joy to be part of the team who welcome new families to our school community over the last few weeks. Some have moved house and school within the country, some have had problems in their previous school and are looking for a fresh start and many have recently moved to this country from abroad and are coping with a whole new language, education system and culture to say nothing of the climate! How do we make people feel welcome and included when at first we may think we have very little in common with one another?

Although we may feel that we have nothing in common, the differences between us are often only superficial. If we persevere and dig a little deeper, if we are willing to be truly present and to give time to the other in listening and in honesty, we discover that actually there is much to connect us. Our physical body may belong to a particular time in history and place on the globe, a particular gender and age and race; but our true self, our spiritual self, is so much more than this. Often the busyness of life and our own needs and agendas keep this connection with others hidden, but occasionally something happens to open our eyes. Usually it is a shared experience such as a significant national sporting success or a shared tragedy. Suddenly our eyes are opened to seeing our own emotions mirrored in the faces of others and we experience an unexpected connection even to strangers.

We were not created in isolation. We were not created to live alone, to get by on our own, to exist independently of one another. So often though, we treat our need of others as a weakness in ourselves. We may be quick to offer help but slow to admit to our own need of support. When he was thirsty, Jesus broke all the rules of polite Jewish society and made himself vulnerable as he asked a Samaritan woman to give him water. In doing so a conversation was opened up in which deeper needs were met and new understanding was formed. A heart was changed and hope was given. The conversation would be a blessing to Jesus, the Samaritan woman and indeed to a wider community.

As our school community grows quickly we have more need than ever to make connections with those who arrive among us. This might involve some humility on our part as we share our own needs or lack of knowledge. We will need to show empathy and compassion as we put ourselves in the shoes of the newcomer and imagine their need to connect, to understand and to be understood. And it will involve us investing time and energy in taking an interest, in patient listening and in simply being a welcoming presence. But when we choose to do these things, I believe that we will all be blessed.

