



Ivybridge Community College Parent and Carer Bulletin

Summer Term I 2024

Safeguarding and E-Safety



Amy Pearce
Senior Lead Safeguarding
and Attendance

Welcome to the first of two summer bulletins. This half term, we are delighted to introduce Mr Clemow, Head of Media Studies, who has much to teach us about fake news.

Please give us feedback on the usefulness of this Parent and Carer Bulletin and let us know if there are topics you would like to see in the future. [Click here](#)

Visit our website for more information [here](#).

Before Kate Middleton's revelations about her cancer diagnosis, [#kategate went viral](#). Conspiracy theories about her whereabouts ranged from her being on ITV's "The Masked Singer" to being dead because she had uncovered the reptilian reality of the Royal Family. Everyone had a theory and distrust was sown.

It has since emerged that the [Russian disinformation group, Doppelganger, were responsible for these conspiracies](#) with the aim of linking the trending hashtag to anti-Ukrainian posts, as well as to undermine our trust in British institutions, namely the mainstream media and the Royal Family.

Or perhaps this "revelation" of the Russian group is the real conspiracy and MI6 are actually covering up a bigger secret... Welcome to the world of fake news, disinformation and online rabbit holes; a world so difficult to navigate it [threatens to topple democracy itself](#) and, with the advent of AI, it is only going to get worse.

[Deepfakes](#) are the next incarnation of fake news and the early signs are deeply troubling. It is already practically impossible to tell the difference between reality and some deepfake constructions. Worse, news stories are already beginning to emerge of [students placing AI generated images of other students into compromising images and/or videos](#).

Confronted with convincing conspiracy theories, hacker-backed bot accounts, intentional disinformation from foreign groups and now AI generated deepfake technology, how are our young people supposed to navigate this hyperreal world, discerning what is true and what is not? The [negative impacts of social media on the mental health of young people are clear](#) and this additional web of complexity could potentially make the effect even worse.

Banning young people from all social media and not buying them smartphones seems the obvious option. After all, there are age limits for social media use in the UK (13 and older) but this is very difficult to implement: the digital realm is where a significant amount of their socialising occurs. An action like this would require a community effort: a consensus among parents and carers to all go down this route, but again, this is filled with difficulties. Other obvious tools would be to monitor their online activity and to place other limitations, such as what they can and cannot upload and time spent online. But the reality, [judging on screen time](#), is that young people spend most of their free time in the digital world.

Perhaps then, as a community, we should focus on helping to educate ourselves and our young people. Communication is key. Firstly, [we should learn about and then discuss all of these "post-truth" elements in our world today](#). Next, [we should encourage critical thinking](#); not automatically believing what we encounter and to do our own research, considering the source of online material. Use [fact-checking and trusted websites](#) to verify potential fake news. Finally, report any concerns. There are a [whole host of excellent online services](#) if you are concerned.



Dave Clemow
Head of Media and Film Studies

PSHE

The theme for PSHE this half term is 'Living In The Wider World'. Following feedback from ParentMeet please find extra detail regarding the PSHE themes for this half term [here](#)

Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers • Entrepreneurial Skills • Future Aspirations
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeships • Types of Employment • Aspirational Goals
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirational Goals • Post-16 Options • Career Pathways
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial decisions • Gambling • Debt
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-life Balance • Future Pathways
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Debt Continued • Professionalism in the Workplace • Future Pathways
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring • Study Leave



Eleanor Burston
PSHE Lead

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity Notices

Looking back at Spring Term II:

- The Literary Canon Tutor Programme was reviewed in relation to books that include racial and discriminatory language in response to student feedback.
- The first Equality and Diversity ParentMeet was held on Thursday, 14 March 2024 where the College's strategies to promote anti-racism and multiculturalism were shared. Please complete the online form [here](#) to provide any further feedback to support equality and diversity at Ivybridge Community College. If you are interested in being part of a Parent Voice Group to support the developments of equality and diversity at the College please note this on the form.

Looking forward to Summer Term I:

- Autism Acceptance Week will be recognised and celebrated during Tutor Time.
- Deaf Awareness Week which commences on Monday, 6 May is to be recognised and celebrated during the Tutor Programme.
- We are excited to be celebrating Culture Fest for the second time at the College to promote anti-racism and multiculturalism with activities, workshops and guest speakers. This will commence on Monday, 20 May and coincides with the international day for cultural diversity. Follow the link [here](#) to find out more about last year's Culture Fest and get a flavour of what is to come this May.



Darby Ball
Equality and Diversity Lead