

Hello Parents/Guardians,

I will keep this brief but wanted to provide you with an update regarding my work this last school year.

A common theme has been the use of the children's social media and how their usage can have an impact on their behaviour, mental health and on occasions attendance in school.

I am planning on hosting an in-person presentation for parents to discuss this issue further in September as well as producing a podcast version for those parents who are unable to attend.

The most basic advice I can give you, to assist in keeping your children safe online, is to take an interest in what they are doing. Complete spot checks on mobile phones and tablets to ensure they are using them correctly and learn how the applications they have on their devices work. For example, Snapchat has a feature named "My eyes only" which is essentially a hidden folder which requires a separate passcode to access it. It has come to my attention that many parents do not know about this feature.

Away from investigating offences and working alongside the schools safeguarding team I have been able to complete 17 presentations of Norfolk Constabulary's "Key Messages". This includes speaking to year seven about Internet Safety, year eight about County Lines and Knife Crime, year nine about Grooming, and year 10 about Healthy Relationships.

I have really enjoyed speaking to the children and have been impressed with how they have listened and interacted during the sessions.

I hope you and your families have a fantastic summer. I will no doubt see some of you and your children during the holidays as I will be assisting the local Policing team with high visibility patrols in the local area after taking some annual leave myself.

Yours Sincerely

PC 1858 James Smith

