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Dear Paul

I hope you are well and having a lovely week.

A few updates for you this week, plus a couple of personal updates towards the bottom in relation to my Online Safety Leads course and a new online safety subscription service which will be launching after October half-term.

Updates

- Safer Internet Day 2024 - theme announced.
- Secondary - sextortion on the rise.
- Sexting guidance.
- For parents - Fortnite guidance.
- For parents - WhatsApp guide.

Safer Internet Day 2024 - Theme Announced

The theme for SID 2024 on 6th Feb has been announced by the UK Safer Internet Centre: "Inspiring change? making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online".

Further details can be found [HERE](#). UKSIC normally release resources for all year groups closer to the date, I will share these once they are released.

Secondary - Sextortion on the Rise

The Internet Watch Foundation has released concerning new stats in relation to young people who are increasingly being extorted online. Predominantly this appears to be older boys (14-17) with the IWF reporting that sextortion has increased by 257% in the first six months of 2023 compared to the whole of 2022. Often, offenders appear as younger females with fake profiles in order to lure, trick and coerce victims which can then have a devastating impact on the young person.

You can see the IWF announcement [HERE](#) and there is some useful information for young people and parents [HERE](#). There is also a free video which I created (part of a bigger paid series) which you are welcome to show to students [HERE](#).

Sexting Guidance

The UK Safer Internet Centre has updated their guidance for schools/colleges in relation to sexting. The web page briefly describes what sexting is, responding to disclosures, searching and viewing devices and involving others.

You can find the updated guidance [HERE](#).

For Parents - Fortnite Guidance

Epic Games (which includes Fortnite, Fall Guys and Rocket League) provide some really useful features for parents to manage their child's gaming experience. This includes 'cabined accounts' which are accounts where

the child is under 13 and certain restrictions are applied by default, e.g. talking to other players. Given the popularity of these games it's possible some parents aren't aware of this feature so it may be worth sharing. You can find further details and instructions from Internet Matters [HERE](#).

For Parents - WhatsApp Guide

Even though WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16+ I find it is the most popular messaging app from Y4/5 upwards. Over the last year or so WhatsApp have introduced new features so it may be worth sharing this updated guide with parents so that they can ensure the most appropriate settings are applied for their child. You can find the article/guide [HERE](#).

Online Safety Leads Course

This is an online, self-led course which has been running for a couple of years but the platform the course was hosted on became a technical nightmare to manage. I have found a new platform and have ported the course over, it's now much better.

The OSL course goes into much greater detail for those staff (e.g. DSL's, Computing Leads) who have a more involved responsibility for online safety in relation to curriculum, policy, management, risks and harm, filtering and monitoring and much more. You can see more details on the new platform [HERE](#).

Online Safety Subscription Service

Keeping staff and parents up to date is time-consuming and often costly. This new subscription service does the work for you in a flexible, cost-effective way. There are 3 models: staff only, parents only, staff and parents. The service will be going live after October half-term, you can find full details plus costs [HERE](#) and if you are interested just let me know.

Online Safety Training (staff, parents and students)

As well as in-school training (staff, students, parents) and virtual (Zoom/Teams) I also offer cost-effective pre-recorded video training as follows (each purchase includes a 12 month licence to use as many times as you wish within your setting):

STAFF INSET

There is a primary version plus a secondary/college version, the most recent videos were updated and re-recorded at the end of August 2023 to make sure they're right up to date. They take staff through the risk basics (content, contact, conduct and commerce), the spaces that children occupy online (games, YouTube and social media) plus the latest risks and issues with supporting advice and guidance. The video can be streamed or downloaded to the school network.

If you would like to see a sampler video you can access the 4-minute introduction [HERE](#).

Cost: £95.00 plus VAT (cost per school, not per person) for a 12 month licence. For Multi-Academy Trusts or if purchasing for a number of schools, discounts are available. Just email me and let me know how many schools you would like to purchase for.

PARENTS

The days of parents online safety evenings were often a struggle to get parents to attend, so I have

created a series of 7 short videos for parents. On purchase, I will send you a MS Word document. This document contains the text, supporting links and video links for 7 emails (or other school communication) which you just need to copy, paste and send out to parents at a frequency of your choice (e.g. one a week). You are also welcome to add your own text.

Cost: £149.00 plus VAT (cost per school, not per person) for a 12 month licence. For Multi-Academy Trusts or if purchasing for a number of schools, discounts are available. Just email me and let me know how many schools you would like to purchase for.

GOVERNORS/TRUSTEES

This video, recorded in Aug 2023, is similar to the staff video but from a governance context. Lasting for just over an hour it covers what online safety means, the risk categories, the online lives of children/young people, followed by a few simple questions that governors can consider with advice and guidance.

Cost: £95.00 plus VAT (cost per school, not per person) for a 12 month licence. For Multi-Academy Trusts or if purchasing for a number of schools, discounts are available. Just email me and let me know how many schools you would like to purchase for.

SECONDARY STUDENTS

This is a series of 10 videos, each of which are short (between 8 and 12 minutes) covering a range of different topics. These are ideal for showing in assembly to promote further classroom discussion/debate or within the classroom to go deeper into the topic. You will be able to download these videos for future use, or even use for virtual learning by sharing the link with students. The cost is £179 (plus VAT) for all the videos, not each. Full details and a sample video can be found [HERE](#).

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