

WALTON LEDALE HIGH SCHOOL



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3rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

There have been several news reports of the past week relating to two main themes which affect children in schools; schools being placed in lockdown due to threats of violence and the news of another 16 year old boy who has taken his life after being the victim of sextortion.

Lockdown

In order to mitigate risk from natural disasters or intrusion, we need to practise our lockdown process. This will take place on **10th May** at approximately **9:15am**. Year 11 will be in an exam and will not be disturbed by this practice but they will receive all the information regarding what to do in the event of a lockdown.

The procedure for the first practice will be as follows:

- A bell will sound to signify the start of the practice. The bell will not be continuous for the practice as this may cause anxiety to some of our students.
- Students will be asked to remain silent and to hide under desks or in parts of the room which cannot be seen from windows.
- The students will be supervised at all times by a member of staff.
- Students who are not in a classroom should go to the nearest classroom.
- The rooms will be locked temporarily.
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will sweep the school, checking toilets and corridors and give the "all clear".

Students will be informed of the practice and the steps they should take during form time between now and the practice. Please do not hesitate to contact your HAL or Mr Gardener if you have any concerns.

Sextortion

This is a type of online blackmail where criminals threaten to share sexual pictures, videos, or information about you. They may be trying to take money from you or forcing you to do something else you don't want to.

Steps have already been taken in school to alert students to the threats of sextortion through assemblies and parents/carers may have noticed the information in the July edition of the Online Safety Newsletter. Unfortunately, children and young people worldwide are being targeted. This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money. Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

The advice from the National Crime Agency for parents/carers is as follows:

- Chat regularly about their life online: have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex: organisations like [CEOP Education](#), Childline and Brook. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail.
- Review privacy settings: talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them.
- Make sure they know where to go for support: let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.
- Make sure they know where to report: remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed:
 - 1. Use [Report Remove](#). Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
 - 2. [Use Take It Down](#). Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
 - 3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on.

CEOP Education

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Report Remove

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Use Take It Down

<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

Please contact us if you need any further advice on the above matters.

Kind Regards



Vicky Arden
Headteacher