



4 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Annual Christmas Market**

On **Thursday 20th December** all Year 9 pupils will set up and run a Christmas market; they are in the process of making all the goods that will be on sale as well as designing games and activities. Parents/carers and friends of any TREA pupils are cordially invited to attend. If you would like to attend please arrive from 2pm. The market will finish at 4.15pm. Please sign in at main reception and you will be directed to the hall.

For this day only pupils do not need to wear school uniform if they make a £2 donation to charity. Pupils have selected the charities they wish to support.

Once the market finishes, visiting parents may take their child home but please ensure you sign out at reception.

### **Last day of term:**

The last day of term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December. May I remind you that school will finish at 12.45pm. I have already written asking anyone who wishes their child to stay in school and use college transport at 3.30pm to return a slip confirming this fact. Currently very few pupils have indicated they will remain in school. Should anyone else be intending to stay please ensure you inform us by the end of this week at the latest so we can arrange for transport to be available for those remaining.

We will presume that your child has permission to leave at 12.45 unless you contact, via email, Sarah Moore in the school office to inform her that your child will remain in school. [Sarah.moore@ruralenterpriseacademy.com](mailto:Sarah.moore@ruralenterpriseacademy.com) Please provide the name and year group of your child and indicate whether your child will require transport, as normal, at 3.30pm.

### **Access to the College site**

You will be aware of recent serious security breaches on the College site. As a result and in order to safeguard all pupils attending both TREA and the College Penkridge Drive will be closed permanently to visitors and parents/carers with barrier access in operation; access will therefore be via Wolverhampton Drive only. There is a car park behind the coach park and parents are welcome to park on this car park whilst they drop off or pick up their child.

I know this will be frustrating to some of you but safeguarding must be the number one priority thus the decision made by the College management team.

I have also been asked to remind parents/carers that they should not park towards the bottom of Penkridge Drive where there is a private drive leading to a residential house. The resident has been forced to contact the Police on a number of occasions over the last few weeks when they have not been able to enter or leave their property. I thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

**The new term begins at 9.00 am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

### **On line and social media activity.**

We are aware that most TREA pupils will spend time on social media and we do much in school to educate them about safe and legal use. Recently we have once again reminded pupils that sexting is illegal.

I thought it might be useful to update you as parents/carers so you can join us in promoting safe use.

Sexting can be seen as harmless, but **creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child.** A young person is breaking the law if they:

- take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.

It's easy to send a photo or message but the sender has no control about how it's passed on. Sexting is reported to the Police and whilst the Police might decide it is not in the public's interest to take the matter further (dependent on individual circumstances) there will be a record that a crime has been committed.

When images are stored or shared online they become public. Some people may think that images and videos only last a few seconds on social media and then they're deleted, but they can still be saved or copied by others. This means that photos or videos which a young person may have shared privately could still be end up being shared between adults they don't know.

The following is information which can be found on the NSPCC website:

*Young people may think 'sexting' is harmless but it can leave them vulnerable to:*

- **Blackmail**  
*An offender may threaten to share the pictures with the child's family and friends unless the child sends money or more images.*
- **Bullying**  
*If images are shared with their peers or in school, the child may be bullied.*
- **Unwanted attention**  
*Images posted online can attract the attention of sex offenders, who know how to search for, collect and modify images.*
- **Emotional distress**  
*Children can feel embarrassed and humiliated. If they're very distressed this could lead to suicide or self-harm.*
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**How to talk to your child about sexting:**

**Find a way to start a conversation.** *Every child is different, so your approach should be based on their character and your relationship with them. You could:*

- *outline your expectations and explain the rules of having a mobile, tablet or smartphone*
- *ask them what they feel is acceptable to send to people, if they'd be happy for you or a stranger or other children to see certain photos. If the answer is 'no', explain that the image, video or message is probably not appropriate to send*
- *make sure they're comfortable saying no, that they know their body is private and being asked to share explicit images is inappropriate*
- *explain to them about the importance of trust and consent in a healthy relationship. Tell them that it's not ok for someone to make them feel uncomfortable, to pressure them into doing things that they don't want to do, or to show them things that they're unhappy about. Let them know that they can speak to you if this ever happens*
- *look at Childline's advice about relationships and online safety together.*
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**Explain the risks of sexting**

- *tell them what can happen when things go wrong. Don't accuse them of sexting, but do explain the dangers and legal issues*
- *you may find it easier to use real-life examples, such as television programmes or news stories, to help you explain the risks*
- *ask them if they'd want something private shown to the world. Talk about the Granny rule - would you want your Granny to see the image you're sharing?*
- *talk about whether a person who asks for an image from you might also be asking other people for images*
- *if children are sending images to people they trust, they may not think there's much risk involved. Use examples of when friends or partners have had a falling-out and what might happen to the images if this happens.*

***Make it clear you will be supportive and understanding***

- *make sure they know that you're always there for support if they feel pressured by anyone*
- *explain that they can come to you if someone asks to send them a nude picture or if they receive an explicit message*
- *let them know that you won't be angry with them but just want to make sure they're safe and happy.*

**Important dates for the remainder of this term:**

Thursday, 6 December 2018 - Year 11 2018 Leavers Presentation Evening

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Meal

Thursday, 20 December 2018 – Christmas market and non-uniform day

Thursday, 20 December 2018 - Year 9 and Year 10 Progress reports to parents.

Thursday, 20 December 2018 – Year 11 GCSE mock results to parents

**Friday, 21 December at 12.45 – Break up for Christmas holiday**

**Monday, 7 January – Return to school for Spring term.**

Yours faithfully

Lorraine Makin  
Principal