



Newsletter #63

6th March 2019

Dear parents/students,

You will have noticed the recent improvements to the front of the school. This will continue in the next few months to include the new reception building once the guard house is completed. I have also taken delivery of some 25 flags which we shall start to fly from new poles at the entrance to the school celebrating the diverse backgrounds from which our students hail.

During term 3 the new gym floor will be put in and we have received plans for the covered tennis court/basketball court which is scheduled to be ready for use in time for September.

So a lot is happening on the facilities front. Meanwhile final practices for this year's musical 'Hamilton' are under way. Students and staff were in on Monday for a full day of rehearsals. It is going to be quite breathtaking. We also have new radio mics so you should be able to hear clearly!

Welcome to the clutch of new students who have started with us recently from as far afield as Norway!

K P Smith, Head Teacher

Calendar Dates

March

6th

Yr 10 parents evening
National Maths Competition
trip for Yr 11s
School Musical - Hamilton

14th – 16th

Ticket are available from reception for this
year's school show

'Hamilton'

Thursday 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th
March.



Every IGCSE and A level art student has their own art equipment, which will enable them to work at home. The art department is now offering for sale,

an art pack which consists of the best quality art equipment:

1. Pencils set
2. Sketchbook
3. Ink
4. Penholder
5. Nib size 404
6. Nib size 291
7. Gouache – set 18
8. Brushes
9. Pencil colours – Set of 24

Price of the set is MK 65,000.00

Lifesaving 2019



During the week of half term, the lifeguard instructor and examiner (from LifesavingSA), flew in from Durban and Johannesburg. The students and staff were divided into groups according to age:

Nippers: 10 – 13yrs old

Junior Lifeguard Award: 14 – 15 years old

Pool Lifeguard Award: 16+ years old



Recertification: Those who needed to update their qualifications.

On many days, the students and staff had to undergo training in very chilly conditions, but our students and staff did us proud. Congratulations to all who participated on the courses.



Vote of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2019 Talent Show

The winner was Sungeni in year 12 singing 'My Boy' By Billy Eilish

A massive thank you to our guest judges, Bryan, Zahira and Wezi, the PTA for their support, the staff who helped out and the 6th Formers who made the show possible.

A special note of thanks to Lina, Angie, Theola, Chantelle and Lonjezo for all the work they put in.

All money raised will be going towards new computer in the 6Th Form Study area.

Governor, MCP shadow MP for Blantyre Malabada, and our own Tawile K, elected SAIntS 'President' and founder of SWAT (Students With A Target). These two politicians fielded a range of questions from our Year 13 students. In a robust and sometimes emotive exchange the topics covered included how to strengthen the Malawian education system, how to deal with corruption, how to ensure sustainable energy, and how keep university graduates from emigrating. The event was very ably managed by our Head Girl, Pao, chair of the SAIntS Question Time event

We are very grateful to Edward Governor for taking the time to attend this event. He was extremely impressed with the way Tawile handled the questions – she is someone to watch in the future of Malawian politics.

SAIntS Question Time 2019



On Friday 1 March there was a 'Question Time' event held at SAIntS. This involved Edward



It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly) ... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

MOMO



CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



National
Online
Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.



SOURCES:
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/six-videos-youtube-kids-14032116>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-4733623>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Phone - 0800 368 8061