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12 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The majority of Year 8 students have settled back in to school well following half term. It was lovely to see our young people paying their respect during the Remembrance Service yesterday. The students reflected on both historic and recent conflicts in the world, some of which have involved NLS students. I wanted to highlight Harry D who took part in the wreath laying ceremony alongside some Year 9 students; Harry is a member of the Air Cadets and this was a real highpoint of the service. Martin S also played The Last Post during the service, which marked the two minutes of silence. We are incredibly proud of these two students.

## Social Media

Overall, the Year 8s' use of social media appears to have improved from Year 7. However, we have noticed an increase in the number of incidents being reported in school, which can affect learning. As you may appreciate, this takes a considerable amount of time to address and investigate when it impacts on students' school life. We therefore wanted to remind you of the guidance sent out in Year 7. We will continue to support students' understanding appropriately through our tutor time curriculum; however, our capacity to manage and address these varied cases is limited.

Multiple apps that students are accessing are not appropriate for Year 8 aged children. Age ratings are there to protect your child and should help to reduce any potential risks. It is also important to be aware that the developer can set the age rating so please remember to review the app yourself. Our primary piece of advice is to remove students from social media sites that they should not be accessing. We would also recommend that you and your child:

- Use the block and 'report abuse' facility on the relevant social media platform
- Refer to the [monthly NLS online safety newsletter](#) for advice and guidance
- Refer to websites such as [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk), [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk) and [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) for useful advice and guidance
- Monitor your child's phone regularly and discuss with them which apps they regularly use
- Place time limits on apps and ensure students have a 'digital detox' so they are not spending too much time on social media

We are asking parents and carers to take responsibility for supporting students with this.

## Odd Socks Day

All students are invited to wear odd socks for Odd Socks Day on Friday 19 November for Anti-Bullying Week.

## College Logo and Slogan Competition

In order to relaunch our college system this year, we are launching a very exciting logo and slogan competition! Please find the information [here](#). All students have been made aware of this too.

## World Class Basics

There are a small number of students who are not following the school uniform policy. The uniform policy can be found [here](#). Over the next two weeks, Miss Murphy and Miss Jephcote will be visiting tutor groups to complete uniform checks. Please can parents support us in ensuring their child is wearing the correct uniform. We do understand that there can be barriers to this and if you are in need of any support, please do contact your child's form tutor who can ensure that the required support is accessed.

Thank you for your continued support of our Year 8 students. Please do continue to contact the Year 8 team so that we can support your child in the best possible way.

Kind regards,

Miss P Murphy

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