



# Parent Forum

**The Axe Valley Community College  
& Sixth Form Centre**

## **Online Safety Awareness Report**

**October 2015**

The increase in recent years of affordable mobile technology and the use of modern media is exposing our children and young people to hazards that most adults would not have encountered in their youth. In fact, many pupils are more familiar with the use of the internet and social media than their parents/carers but often do not possess the maturity and awareness to identify and deal with potential dangers.

The College takes online safety very seriously and delivers an awareness programme to pupils in school during computing & IT classes, regular assemblies and PSHE days.

### **Objective**

- To find out how aware parents/carers are of the issues around online safety
- To ascertain what additional measures parents would like the College to take
- The questions were designed to elicit four pieces of information as follows:
  - Had parents installed parental controls on their children's devices
  - Do parents discuss online safety with their children
  - Are parents aware of online safety publications put out by the College and do they find them useful
  - Would parents like the College to hold an online safety evening

### **Overview**

- Questionnaires were handed out at each year group parents' evening with the exception of Year 10. For this year group the questionnaire was e-mailed out to parents with a request to return responses to the Parent Forum e-mail. This resulted in only three responses which is not representative enough to draw meaningful conclusions for Year 10 parents.
- Generally, parents showed a good awareness of the importance of installing parental controls on their children's devices.
- About two thirds or more of parents from each year group discussed online safety with their children.
- Over 80% of parents of KS3 and 4 pupils were aware of online safety articles published in the College newsletter but slightly less were aware of the website information.
- Of those parents that were aware online safety information published by the College over 60% read the articles and, of those, almost 100% found them useful.
- Over 60% of KS3 and 4 parents would like the College to hold an online safety evening.

## **Comments & Suggestions**

There were a number of comments and suggestions as follows:

### **For pupils:**

- Workshops
- Class discussions
- Tutorials on social media
- Keep on impressing the importance of online safety
- Teach online safety in IT lessons
- Testimonials from older students regarding their experiences
- Simple messages clearly communicated
- Posters around school

### **For parents:**

- Online safety evening
- Regular updates, possibly by e-mail
- Short information videos to download (like GCSE Pod)
- Hands on practical help on setting up parental controls on devices