



Safeguarding newsletter

Autumn 2023

The aim of the newsletter is to share, on a termly basis, key related information, in an effort, to better improve communication between the Academy and you as parents / carers.



Staff training updates

Safeguarding is something that always keep changing and the staff here at Tudor Grange academy are always keen to attend any training that will help provide our school community with support, and our further knowledge

Recently the Safeguarding team has been on Online safety training. This will help the staff educate and provide those detailed discussions with students about keeping themselves safe online

Some of the Safeguarding team went on Papyrus training which trains staff on how to sensitively and productively talk to students who have been struggling with mental health/suicidal thoughts

Secondary School Pupils Only:

We would like your help and support in advertising and promoting in School, a confidential Health for Teens Health Advice and Support Text Messaging Service to School Nursing on 07520 615730, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. We do have laminated posters that were delivered out to schools at the start of the academic term, if you would like anymore, please do let us know



• Web-Site Links:

- The Health for Kids and Health for Teens website is a really useful for health information:
- Kids website (age 4yrs - 11yrs) www.healthforkids.co.uk
- Teens website (age 11yrs - 19yrs) www.healthforteens.co.uk
- The School Nursing Team can be contacted Monday to Friday 8:30am-5pm on 0121 726 6754

My Voice

Here at Tudor Grange Academy, we are proud of the work we do to ensure our Safeguarding procedures and practices are always improving and progressing to provide a safe environment for the students and staff.

My Voice launched here this year and is just one of the tools we use to help our students to feel confident in reporting any safeguarding concerns.

We also have the Yellow box and the Yellow door to provide the students opportunities to share their concerns



MY VOICE®

Support for Parents/Carers:

We would like you help and support in advertising/signposting your parents/carers to promote and encourage the use of the Parent-Line Service. This can be used to gain confidential, health advice for their child on 07480 635 496, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm



Students Resources

Within the school the students have access to various resources that help support our students emotional and mental health. Some of these resources are available online of the TGA website.

Alongside this the pastoral team do a lot of mentoring and support for those students who need extra support

[How are you feeling](#)

[Stress bucket](#)

[Stress Curve](#)

[Pros and cons of changing](#)

[Stress signature](#)

[The National Sleep Helpline](#)

[Umbrella Health](#)

[Kooth](#)

[Young Minds](#)

Age-appropriate conversations

A big factor to consider when we're talking to children is age or cognitive ability, which also impacts on the language we use and what we can talk about. As children get older, their needs and behaviour will change, particularly as children are moving through their teenage years and are more prone to risk-taking, mood swings or whether they will even talk to you about something that they may be embarrassed or ashamed about.

For example if you suspect grooming or exploitation, you may not wish to talk about this directly with a younger child, but instead report directly to CEOP. But you can also use resources such as PANTS to help with the conversation.

With an older teenager you may be more comfortable talking about these issues. There are some tips in our Positive Parenting guide and our page on talking about difficult topics which you may find useful.

8 tips to stay safe online

- 1** Be nice to people online. 
- 2** Take care with what you share. 
- 3** Keep personal information private. 
- 4** Check your privacy settings. 
- 5** Know how to report posts. 
- 6** Keep your passwords safe. 
- 7** Never meet anyone in person you've only met online. 
- 8** If you see anything online that you don't like or you find upsetting, tell someone you trust. 

The NSPCC website has some great tools and advice for parents on online safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app *does* use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

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MEET STRANG

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

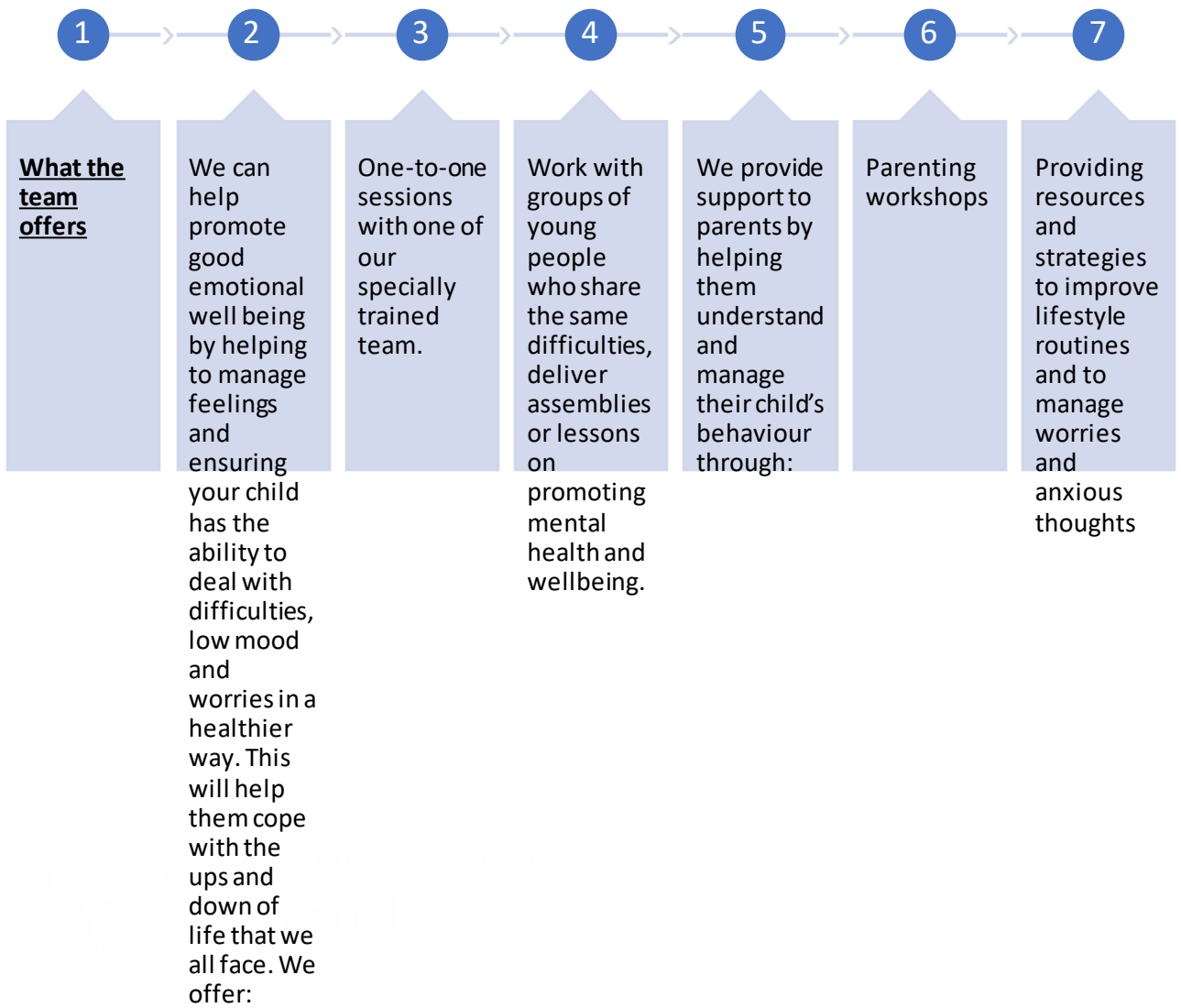


National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



We are always looking for more ways that we can sign post families to supportive agencies. One of those agencies we have been working with is the MHST team. They are supporting some of our students who have been directed to SOLAR and then signposting them to 1-1 support work



Local community news

Solihull Police says they've stepped up patrols in and around [#DingleLane](#) in [#Solihull](#) following a report of a robbery.

A police spokesperson said: "A school pupil had his pushbike stolen by youths on a motorbike.

"We're working closely with schools advising young people about staying safe during the darker nights <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights/robbery-theft>"

We've stepped up patrols in & around Dingle Lane [#Solihull](#) following a report of a robbery 🚔

A school pupil had his pushbike stolen by youths on a motorbike

We're working closely with schools advising young people about staying during the [#DarkerNights](#)
bit.ly/3sOlyah





- Anti bullying month November 2023
- During the month of November our school community supported anti bullying month and shared awareness of the impact bullying others can have on people's mental health.
- The students were reminded of how to report any concerns they have about bullying and to treat others with kindness.
- On the last week of anti bullying month, the students were given the chance to buy a doughnut for £1.00 and all the money would go to charity, and they raised over \$15