

20th June 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Assembly on Online Safety and Harmful Sexual Behaviours

This week, we have delivered an important assembly to all students at Holbrook Academy focused on online safety and harmful sexual behaviours, particularly around the sharing of indecent images.

The session was part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and educating our students on how to behave responsibly and respectfully online. As you may be aware, sharing or possessing indecent images of anyone under 18 is illegal under UK law - even if the image is of themselves or shared consensually. We explored the legal, social, and emotional consequences of these actions and reinforced the message that such behaviour can have lasting impacts on their futures.

The assembly also included information about:

- The UK law on sharing indecent images
- School sanctions in line with our Behaviour Policy (2-day suspension for a first offence, 5 days for a second, and an off-site direction or permanent exclusion for a third)
- How to seek help if a student feels pressured or has already shared something

One of the slides also encouraged students to talk to their parents or carers about this topic. With that in mind, I have attached a copy of the slides from the assembly so you can see the material we covered and, if you wish, use it as a starting point for a conversation with your child.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak to someone about this topic, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Safeguarding team.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you about a concerning app that has become increasingly popular among teenagers, including some students within our school community. The app is called **Wizz**, and we believe it is important that you are aware of the potential risks associated with its use.

Wizz is a social networking app marketed as a platform for meeting new people through random video chats and messaging. While it may appear harmless at first glance, there are serious safeguarding and online safety issues linked to its use.

Key Risks of the Wizz App:

- Age Verification Issues: The app relies on users self-reporting their age, which can easily be falsified. This creates opportunities for adults to pose as minors and interact with children.
- Exposure to Inappropriate Content: There have been reports of explicit language, images, and adult themes circulating on the platform, even when users set their profiles as being under 18.
- Unmonitored Chats: Conversations and connections are often unmoderated, which can lead to cyberbullying, grooming, or inappropriate messaging.
- Privacy Concerns: The app encourages users to share photos, videos, and personal information with strangers, often without understanding the long-term consequences.

- Addictive Nature: The random and fast-paced interactions can be highly addictive and impact students' mental wellbeing and academic focus.

What You Can Do:

- Talk to Your Child: Have open and honest discussions about the apps they use and the people they interact with online.
- Check Devices: Familiarize yourself with the apps installed on your child's phone or tablet. If Wizz is installed, discuss its risks and consider removing it.
- Use Parental Controls: Utilize parental settings on devices and apps to help manage what your child can download or access.
- Stay Informed: Online trends change quickly. Regularly reviewing trusted resources like [Thinkuknow](#) or the NSPCC's website can help you stay updated.

Your child's safety - both in the real world and online - is of utmost importance to us. If you have any concerns or require support, please do not hesitate to contact our safeguarding team.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students safe.

Yours sincerely,

D Sansom

David Sansom
Assistant Headteacher