

April 23rd 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

SOCIAL MEDIA

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well after a very challenging year? I am sorry that I write with some alarming and disturbing information about the extent to which social media, primarily Snapchat and Tik Tok, has spiralled out of control in its utter failure to regulate activity and safeguard children and young people online.

It has been brought to our attention that there is an electronic campaign to encourage our children to engage with "National Rape Day". Evidently this campaign is promoting the sickening notion that acts of sexual violence should be carried out on 24 April. Naturally we are taking steps to speak to all the students here at Tavistock College about the abhorrence of this entire notion and additionally, the social media pages/sites have been reported to the relevant authorities.

I remain confident that our entire cooperative school community will be outraged by "National Rape Day". However, I felt it prudent to alert all parents and carers to this particular set of circumstances as they are so appalling.

I must also let you know that our colleagues at Early Help have informed us of the following;

Victim Support have let us know that some of their young clients have been identified and approached through Facebook by an administrator of an unknown group. The young people have described being selected by the administrator to take their own life at a selected date and advised to contact victim support for their last call. The young people say the group have done something to their devices to make them untraceable. Victim Support have reported these incidents to the police and shared IP address but the police have not been able to identify them and the IP address has shown as Portugal, Italy and somewhere else. Please therefore also be vigilant around any contacts your children and young people may receive from support groups.

May I remind all our families that help and self- help information if available on the safeguarding area of our website the link to which, is here; <http://www.tavistockcollege.org/our-college/safeguarding/>

Many thanks for your attention to this matter. Please contact us at your convenience if you have further questions or if you would like any additional information.

Kind regards



Barbara Manning

Vice Principal

Together; we care, we challenge, we excel