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Principal: James Tickle

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing with some serious concerns over children watching the series “13 Reasons Why” and use of the game “Fortnite”. This is particularly pertinent to students in our younger year groups.

The series “13 Reasons Why” involves a young girl taking her own life and contains quite graphic images relating to this. This programme is an 18-certificate and is therefore not appropriate viewing for school-aged children, due to the adult themes it contains.

The game “Fortnite” is hugely popular with students and our primary concern relates to the fact that this is a free online game and, as such, is not subject to the same safety measures as other games. “Fortnite” gives access to open chat rooms where any adult is able to interact with your child, possibly without your knowledge. This presents a serious safeguarding issue as students could be open to grooming, radicalisation and could be encouraged to give away personal details that mean they could be identified and located.

We strongly urge parents to review what their children are accessing online and on Netflix, and to consider withdrawing their permission to view programmes such as “13 Reasons Why” and games which allow open access on chat rooms. Please talk to your children about what they are accessing and monitor this regularly so that you can be reassured of their safety.

If you have any concerns arising from your conversations with your children, please do not hesitate to contact one of the school Designated Safeguarding Leaders – Miss Blythe, Miss Reuben or Miss Parfitt.

Thank you