PSA Bulletin

This week let's talk about 'Doxxing'

Last week you will have seen me talking about safeguarding and how this is **everyone's business**.

What is doxxing?

Perhaps like me, you are unfamiliar with the term. According to 'internet matters' Doxxing is when someone on the internet (the doxxer) posts personal information about someone else (the victim) for the world to see. This information is sensitive, meaning it can be used to figure out who someone really is, where they live and how to contact them. The information can be the victim's **real name**, **home address**, **phone number**, **email address**, **photos** or other personal information.

You may feel that your child is not accessing any device, app or online platform where they may fall victim to this. It can be easy for parents to assume that safety measures are robust enough when we do allow access to things such as gaming and social media. However, one of the best things you can do to make sure that your child isn't **doxxed** is to talk to them about it. These conversations help them know not to tell anyone their real name, share pictures of themselves online or tell anyone about which school they go to or which year they are in. At the same time, these conversations allow families to discuss the sorts of things which are suitable for messages and those which are more appropriate face to face.

Parent tip: I like to remind my children that 'a message sent rarely disappears altogether'. 'DELETE doesn't necessarily remove the content that you now regret sending' and 'when you are communicating with your friends please remember that their parents are likely to also be monitoring your activity'.

- *Make sure that no personal information is available on your child's social media or gaming accounts, such as their hometown.*

- *Social media apps, such as Snapchat, use location services to find out where your child is connecting from. Make sure to turn off location services in the device's settings to prevent a doxxer from knowing where your child is currently located.*

What can you do today to help keep your child safe?

Take a look at these [Practical tips](#) together with your children

Inform and arm yourself with knowledge about the apps and games your children are interested in. You can find helpful guides [here](#)

Talk openly with your children and other parents. If you see something concerning report it. Each family will have different boundaries for their children but we all need to contribute to keeping children safe.

How to contact me:

It's never too soon to make contact if you have any concerns. You can reach me via text on the PSA mobile **07903 613074** or via email,

terri-anne.old@celticcross.education

Normal working days are Tuesday and Wednesday 8.00-16.00 and Thursday 8.00-13:00