MOUNT LOURDES GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

SOCIAL MEDIA TALK

Our A-Level BTEC ICT group are learning about how social media is used by businesses. To help us understand this more, we were delighted to have past pupil Jane Sproule (formerly McDermott) come in to speak to our Year 13s about her journey since leaving Mount Lourdes. After studying Law and then taking up employment as a solicitor, she recently left this post to focus on a full time career in Social Media. She talked about the pros and cons of the career and how influencers earn money on different platforms. It was a really engaging and informative talk. Thank you to Jane for taking the time to come and visit us!





NEW DIGITAL LEADER TEAM APPOINTED!



Congratulations to our newly appointed Digital Leader Team for 2026/27. Halimah Monahan and Cara McMahon in Year 11, Holly Leonard and Katie Magee in Year 12 and Imogen Treacy and Ciara McKenzie in Year 13 were all successful in making the team. All students study either GCSE Digital Technology or A-Level BTEC ICT. This team will help promote digital skills, online safety and the responsible use of AI across the whole school community. They will start by visiting Year 8 form classes in the coming weeks to speak to them about online safety and their use of AI.

ChatGPT for Teens

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot that can answer questions, explain topics and help with homework.

You should be at least 13 years old to access Chat GPT. Users under 18 should have parental or guardian permission.

There are important risks to be aware of if using ChatGPT including that it can sometimes make mistakes and provide inaccurate information and users can become over-reliant on it instead of developing their own skills.

ChatGPT for Teens

OpenAI has launched ChatGPT for Teens, which includes features such as a Study Mode. Study Mode is designed to help guide users through a topic rather than just providing an answer. You can find out more information about ChatGPT for Teens and the current parental controls available in this article from Parent Zone: https://parentzone.org.uk/article/chatgpt-teens-what-parents-and-schools-need-know

Concerns of ChatGPT for Teens

Common Sense Media has published an assessment of ChatGPT for Teens and has deemed it an Unacceptable Risk. Some of the key findings include that ChatGPT doesn't send parent alerts when it should and ChatGPT for Teens doesn't offer the right help in crisis situations.

You can read the concerns in more detail here: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/press-releases/chatgpt-for-teens-poses-unacceptable-risk-to-kids-common-sense-media-finds

Online Grooming

What is Online Grooming?

Online Grooming is when an adult builds a relationship online with a child to manipulate, exploit, or abuse them.

How does Grooming take place?

Groomers often use fake profiles to pretend they are someone they are not, for example they may claim to be younger than they really are or pretend to be a person of influence. They will use flattery and attention to build trust and friendship. They may use online games or social media to initiate contact but then encourage your child to switch to a different app to chat with privately - usually on an app that offers limited or no parental controls and/or encrypts messages.

What can I do?

- ·Use appropriate parental controls.
- ·Set privacy settings.
- ·Show them how to use any blocking or reporting tools.
- ·Chat to your child regularly about what they do online and who they communicate with. Remind them that people online may not always be who they say they are.

What are the signs that my child is being groomed?

- ·Being secretive about who they are talking to.
- ·They become withdrawn from family and friends.
- ·Appearing anxious or upset after receiving messages.
- ·Receiving unexpected gifts.

Find out more here: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/offender-gaining-trust

What should I do if my child is being groomed?

·If you think your child is in immediate danger, contact the police.

- Stay calm and reassure your child that they are not to blame.

·If you are worried about online abuse or the way somebody has been communicating with your child online, report it to CEOP: (https://www.ceop.police.uk).

Further information

·https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/sexual-abuse/online-grooming/

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