



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

27th February 2019

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

Heywood Avenue, Onchan

Isle of Man, IM3 3AR

+44 (0) 1624 648900

UPPER SCHOOL (Years 10 – 13)

Ballaquayle Road, Douglas

Isle of Man, IM2 5RA

+44 (0) 1624 648800

HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Dear Parents and Guardians

You may have seen recent news coverage around a new social media trend called the 'Momo Challenge'. It is particularly disturbing and distressing and is causing concerns around the welfare and wellbeing of young people in our school.

There is an image of a fictional character 'Momo' which is associated with this challenge, and our students are finding this to be especially distressing. This character has appeared as an image on several gaming platforms (such as Minecraft and Fortnite) as well as in several YouTube videos and social media sites such as Instagram and encourages young people to make contact with a stranger's number via a phone call, text or WhatsApp message.

Once a young person has initiated contact and shared their mobile number, it is believed that hackers are then able to access the mobile device and the data that is stored on it. They are also then able to contact the young person directly and send them a series of challenges and threats or consequences if they are not completed. The final challenge that is set by 'Momo' is to end their own life.

We will be delivering a series of assemblies around this issue to all our Key Stage 3 students next week, but we would encourage all parents to have a conversation with their child about safety on-line. We would ask parents to be mindful of the following:

- Ensure that you are aware of what your child is accessing on line
- Ensure that your child understands the importance of not sharing any personal information with anyone they do not know
- Make sure children know that no one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to
- Use appropriate parental controls on mobile devices or home internet access

It is important to note that the 'Momo' character is only an image and does not exist in reality. Unfortunately, unscrupulous hackers and unpleasant people do exist in the on-line world but in this case, it appears that they can only access children's mobile devices if the child initiates contact with them. Please do stress to your child that they should never make contact with any person that they do not know or have never met before.

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*Live to Learn
Learn to Live*

WWW.SNHS.IM

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHERS Miss J. White Mr A.N. Smith

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHERS Mrs A.C. Daugherty Mr D. McGuinness Mr J.K. Smith Mrs R.A. Withington | BURSAR Ms S.M. Shimmin



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-2-

If you have noticed any changes in your child's behaviour, please be alert to the following:

- Have they become very secretive, especially about what they are doing on line?
- Are they spending a lot of time on line?
- Are they switching screens quickly on their device when you approach them?
- Are they withdrawn or angry after being on line or sending messages?
- Do they have lots of new numbers or e-mail addresses in their contacts that you don't know?

If you feel that you would like further advice or support for you or your child, we recommend the websites below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Support for children is available in school through our Listening Service and our Student Support team. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns you wish to discuss about your child.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe.

Yours faithfully

Miss J White
Deputy Head Teacher

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