



Musical.ly



31st January 2017

Ref: JC/In

Dear Parent/Carer

ONLINE SAFETY – URGENT MESSAGE

It has been reported to us by colleagues in a neighbouring school about inappropriate behaviour online towards students using the App **Musical.ly**. The App is designed to allow the user to create music videos.

Female students have been 'followed' online by an individual who initially follows them, starts "liking" what they post and then initiates conversation. Very quickly the conversation progresses from 'Hi, you're cute' to requesting that the conversation moves privately to the **Oovoo** App. This site is widely used by paedophiles. Conversations on Musical.ly have rapidly moved to requests for live chat or uploads of highly inappropriate images of the student.

Please take time to talk to your child about this site, reiterate the online safety message and that the behaviour mentioned in this letter is clearly grooming. Statistics show that online grooming takes only 20 minutes before a young person is taken in by the perpetrator.

If your child has been contacted in this manner, we advise that you keep any evidence on the phone and contact the Police on 101. Your child should not have any further contact with anyone behaving in this manner.

Further learning opportunities will take place in school before February term. You will be notified of these.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns please contact your child's Head of Year at school.

Yours sincerely

Joe Cowell
Headteacher