



# Heathfield

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Headteacher: **Hannah Jones**

Dear Parents and Carers

In our assemblies we have been learning about exploitation and how technology is currently being used to entice and exploit people. I wanted to share this content with you, particularly the information about 'sexploitation' which has become a prevalent way of tricking someone into sharing nudes online and then blackmailing them for money, by threatening to share the images or video.

The targeting and secretive nature of these schemes means that our children can be lured and made to feel trapped without parents or carers knowing. This assembly content is designed to help young people spot the signs and to avoid being in this position. It contains a recent real-life example, and some short, powerful videos. The videos are American, but the important message is that this is happening to our children in Somerset too. I invite you to view the assembly slides and watch the powerful videos so that you can also talk to your children about these schemes and be aware of how to help protect them.

I know of families both professionally and personally who have been affected by these types of exploitation. These have been safeguarding aware, tech savvy families. The two take-aways to share with you are, that they wished they had been more aware before it happened to their child, and the realisation that it really can happen to anyone.

My hope is that by sharing this information as widely as possible, we can spare other children and families the shock, anguish and expense of being blackmailed online.

You can find the assembly [here](#)

Year 7 & 11 saw the assembly just before half term

Years 8, 9 and 10 are planned to see the assembly on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March respectively

If you or your family need support with this or any other safeguarding matter, please feel free to contact our Safeguarding Team at school on the main number below or you can email us directly at [safeguardingteam@heathfieldcommunityschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@heathfieldcommunityschool.co.uk)

With best wishes

Nicola Patmore

(Assistant Head and Safeguarding Lead)