

## Internet Safety Letter

5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents,

### Re: Snap Map

Snapchat have recently introduced 'Snap Map' an opt-in function that allows you to share your location with your friends on a map. If users aren't careful, Snap Map will **broadcast their exact location** to anyone on their friends list every time they open the app. We are concerned that some of our young people will have Snap Map enabled without understanding the dangers that may entail. With Snap Map enabled all friends will be able to see the exact location of the user, including detail of the house or street that they are in and therefore we invite you to discuss whether or not it is appropriate for your son or daughter to have this function 'enabled' or not.

If you want to disable Snap Map, select "Ghost Mode" upon Snapchat's initial walkthrough. If you've already enabled location sharing for Snap Map, tap the settings gear in the top right while viewing the Map, and select Ghost Mode from there.

### Unsuitable Applications for Young People

We have also had a number of concerns from parents regarding the suitability of a number of Applications that our young people are using on their tablets and mobile phones. We have been advised by the local authority designated safeguarding officer that O2 are offering in store support on parental controls and keeping children safe online from an O2 Guru to parents on ANY mobile network.

They also have excellent online advice which can be found using the following URL:  
<http://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>

Alternatively you can also seek advice from the NSPCC website:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

We believe it is vital that you communicate with your child about online safety and you check to ensure they are keeping themselves safe to prevent any dangers.

We understand that there are different Applications that make parental controls easy. One that has been recommended to us by a Balcarras parent is 'Our Pact'. Our Pact is a simple family locator and parental control app that allows parents to locate family members and limit screen time by blocking internet access and app access. Again more information can be found on their website:

<http://ourpact.com/>

Tutors will reiterate the message of online safety during afternoon registrations in the approach to the summer break and if you need any further advice or you have any concerns you wish to discuss specifically relating to your child please contact their Head of House in the first instance.

Kind regards,

*J. M. Corinaldi*

Mrs JM Corinaldi  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead