



## LWS Academy

Montefiore Drive, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, SO31 7NL.

Dear Parents

We have notified by another local secondary school of concerns raised by a number of their students regarding 'inappropriate' Snapchat conversations where they have been targeted by an unknown adult who has the ability to hack accounts. Police and parents have been informed. We have no information to indicate this has happened to any of our students.

Our advice is to discuss the concerns with your son asking them to explain how Snapchat works if you are not already familiar with it. Snapchat recently released a new feature called Snapmap which allows users to be tracked to their exact location (within a metre). This is an opt in feature, therefore once again discuss with your son the risks and how he can use it safely i.e., 'Ghost mode'.

Police and children's charities have expressed concern about this; the links below may be helpful for you to discuss this new feature with your child and go through how to disable it:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-40382876>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2017/06/23/police-issue-child-safety-warning-snapchat-maps-update-reveals/>

Also, the following link is from the NSPCC about Snapchat:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat/>

Please discuss this all with your son and should you have concerns please either contact the school or the Police. We respect that young people live in a digital, social media oriented world and would not want to inhibit this in any way but we must all work together to ensure they can do this safely by making informed choices.

Thank you for your continued support.

*T. Mitchell*

Yours sincerely  
Tamara Mitchell  
Designated Safeguarding Lead