



📍 Ham Lane, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2LL
☎ 01622 858260
✉ office@lenham.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Andrea McCluskey

6th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to invite you to a **'Digital and Online Awareness Briefing for Parents'** that will focus on the increasingly complex and potentially dangerous online world that children are growing up in. We have a fantastic speaker coming from The Towers School to deliver the session. Mr Gaygan has been delivering sessions like this for a number of years and every time he does he has to rewrite the presentation because the issues, concerns and questions from parents are changing on an almost daily basis.

In the last 2-3 years there has been a real and marked increase in how the sheer amount of online information (both good and bad) that children are being exposed to is impacting on their emotional and mental health. This impact and exposure is real and as a result changing how we, as adults, need to support, advise and guide them as they move from childhood into young adulthood.

The 'digital divide' between adults and children has always been there, but there is an ever-growing gulf that needs to be addressed regarding their decision making, what they are seeing, how this is shaping beliefs and the increasingly blurred lines between their 'online' and 'real' worlds. The hope is by giving you an insight into some of the issues we are dealing with, and the seen and unseen impact it has on children, we will hopefully be able to provide you with some practical advice and guidance to take away.

This event will take place on **Tuesday 25th November at 2-3pm** in the school hall and some of the topics to be discussed will be:

- Influencers - The potentially toxic ones who are changing how children think, speak and act
- Social media and its impact on the safeguarding, self-harm and self-esteem of children
- Online dangers and concerns: Reality Vs Perception.
- How social media platforms can quickly become 'anti-social', toxic and all encompassing
- My current 'in-tray' of issues that we are dealing with in school
- The ease at which children can be exposed to harmful, explicit and potential exploitative material, irrespective of the controls you put in place
- The inescapable rise of AI and how we safeguard children from it

Some of the subject material that Mr Gaygan will be covering will at times be sensitive, **aimed at an adult audience and therefore not suited to children**. Students get a wealth of information on digital safety, online education and guidance while they are at school, that is both age and content appropriate.



📍 Ham Lane, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2LL
☎ 01622 858260
✉ office@lenham.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Andrea McCluskey

This briefing is designed for an adult audience, and I wanted to give you fair warning about this from the outset.

If you are interested in attending, could you please show an expression of interest by clicking on the link and filling in your details. It will only take 1 minute to fill in but will allow me to plan and prepare properly for the evening.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeICdBKSk2gGbK7roR4jqAI0QdczclGvPZQhengWR_-IPN8RA/viewform?usp=dialog

We look forward to seeing you, but in the meantime if you have any questions that you wish to raise in advance or topics you would like to discuss, then please do not hesitate to contact me the school office.

Mrs McCluskey
Headteacher