

## **Bishop Wordsworth's School**

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EDTelephone:01722 333851Fax:01722 325899E-mail:admin@bws.wilts.sch.ukWebsite:www.bws-school.org.ukHead Master:Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

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Dear Parents/Guardians

## Reports of Self-Harm Challenge Trending on Social Media

You may have seen in the press recently details of a new trend called the 'Momo Challenge' which is said to be circulating predominantly via WhatsApp and YouTube.

Momo reportedly features a disturbing image of a face, accompanied by a voice which challenges the recipient to engage in harmful behaviour, including self-harm and suicide. It is also said to threaten users that they or their families will be hurt if they tell an adult about it.

Recent news reports are now suggesting that this is actually 'Fake News' however the Momo Challenge is sadly a current, high profile example of viral challenges which are constantly circulating. I would therefore like to stress the importance of remaining vigilant about what your son is viewing on-line, as opposed to focussing on a single specific danger such as Momo.

In order to promote good practices on-line, excellent help can be found on the <u>NSPCC</u> website or by visiting <u>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</u>, so I would encourage you to make full use of these websites if you need to.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of School staff if you have any concerns.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andrew Griffin-Raphael Designated Safeguarding Lead