



20210127 To All Parents: Virtual School, IT Privacy Update

Please see the [update](#) at the end of this letter.

Dear parents

As you will be aware we take the privacy of students very seriously and are keen to always ensure that we comply with current data protection legislation. While we are in school we have the ability to monitor student screens during lessons, as the students are aware. However, we have never enabled the ability to perform any monitoring out of school, as we would consider this to be an infringement of privacy. Although the Chromebooks used by students from Kindergarten - Grade 10 are ISA property, we allow personal use at home and do not monitor this, other than our safeguarding procedures, for example enforcing safe search on youtube for younger students.

However, for the duration of lockdown and running Virtual School we believe it would be in the best interests of teachers and students if we turn on the monitoring of screens. This means that teachers or technical support staff can assist students by looking at their screens and seeing what they are doing. It also helps teachers realise if students are distracted while working alone, and to bring them back on task. Finally, it helps us to more effectively ensure the integrity of tests.

Therefore, from Thursday 28th January we will be turning on screen monitoring for all students who are signed into their ISA accounts, between the hours of 8am and 4.30pm, Monday - Friday. You should be aware that teachers will be able to take screenshots of student screens, but no video and no activation of device cameras.

We would ask that you ensure all students are logged into their ISA accounts during school hours for this system to work effectively for them.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Little

Update, 28th January 2021, 11.30am

Personal Devices

We have had several queries regarding monitoring on personal devices. We do not have the ability to monitor anything on personal devices (eg iPad, tablet, personal computer, macbook), other than tabs loaded in the Chrome browser while logged on to an ISA student account.

To clarify, we **cannot** see:

- anything viewed online through another browser (eg Edge, Safari, Firefox)
- any other programs on the device
- any files on the device
- anything on Chrome when not signed in, or when signed in with a personal Google account.

We can monitor anything on a self-owned Chromebook if it is signed in with an ISA account. However, if it is signed in with a personal account, we can only see screens where the ISA account is signed in.

Times

We have chosen the times from 8am - 4.30 to cover the full school day, from the start of the Elementary day to the end of clubs, eg the MS/HS Homework club which runs until 4.30. We do not have the ability to turn the setting off at breaks and lunchtimes; even if we did this would be unmanageable due to different times across the school.



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Screenshots

We only have the ability to take still images of a student screen. This is rarely used, and is only for the occasion whereby a student is behaving inappropriately (particularly cheating on tests) and evidence is required.