



9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Online Safety Evening for Adults – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – with special guest speaker Lorin LaFave.**

Our annual Online Safety Evening for adults only takes place on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** from 6pm in the Main Hall at QEGS.

This year I am very pleased to announce that the evening will feature a guest speaker, Lorin LaFave. Lorin is the mother of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old boy, from Caterham, Surrey who loved technology and online gaming. He was groomed via the internet and murdered on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 by someone he met online. His story was featured in the BBC documentary 'Murder Games', which was first broadcast in 2016 and shown at our evening in March 2016. Lorin has since set up the Breck Foundation in Breck's memory with the aim of helping other young people enjoy playing online but crucially to be aware of some simple rules to stay safe and promotes the hashtag #playvirtuallivereal in an attempt to open people's eyes to how dangerous the Internet can be. In a powerful presentation, she will be sharing her touching story and emotional journey since that time and will be available to answer questions from the audience afterwards.

Lorin will also be delivering presentations to QEGS students during the day of March 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to cover some of the costs of bringing her to the school, we have had to make a small charge of **£3 per person** for the evening event. Admission is by ticket only, available from the QEGS Box Office, accessed via [qegs.link/tickets](http://qegs.link/tickets). If any profit is made from the sale of these tickets, it will be donated to the Breck Foundation.

The evening promises to be an interesting and informative event for all parents and carers and I hope that you will consider joining us. Please be aware that this evening is for those over the age of 18 only.

In addition to speaking at the above evening, Lorin LaFave will be speaking to all year groups throughout the day to share her experiences and provide advice for keeping safe online.

## **'No Tech 4 Breck' Challenge – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017.**

As a follow-up to this I am challenging all students and teachers at QEGS to go without using their favourite technology for a period of 24 hours from 3.30pm on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> to 3.30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and would very much like as many parents and carers as possible to support us in this (or maybe even take part!) Technology could include, but is not limited to, phones, tablets, PCs, games consoles, music players and TVs. I will be really interested to see how many of our students and staff can manage to complete the challenge!

The idea of the challenge is to allow people of all ages to experience a day of 'Cyber Silence' in support of the Breck foundation whilst they enjoy focusing on their real life relationships and activities. It will be run as a fund-raising activity - your child may like to be sponsored to go without technology for the day or may opt to pay a 'fine' if they fail the challenge. There will be a range of low-tech activities for all students to enjoy in the main hall at lunch time as well as board games and cake and sweet sales to name but a few, so students may wish to bring some change on the day. Suggestions for activities for families taking part in the challenge include, but are not limited to:

- Having a family meal.
- Going for a walk.
- Discussing what happened during your day.
- Playing a board game.

I hope you will support your child in taking part in this event, or maybe consider taking part yourself.

If you require any further information, on either of the above events, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Illsley', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Illsley  
**Online Safety Coordinator**  
[illsleyj@qegs.email](mailto:illsleyj@qegs.email)