



Headteacher's Comment:

This week, our students attended Holocaust Memorial Day assemblies led by Mr McDonnell.

The assemblies were sensitive to the ages of our students and enabled them to appreciate the atrocities suffered by millions of Jews during the Second World War.

The assemblies also highlighted more recent events in the middle east and promoted peace, tolerance and human rights.

#ProudToBeChase



Take Your Child to Work Day:

Students in Years 7 and 8 have the exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience in our upcoming 'Take your child to work' days. Taking part in these experience days will not only be fun for pupils, but will be educational, interactive and inspiring in introducing the concept of work at an early and impressionable age. If you are able to support your child with this opportunity, or you have any questions, please email edel.donlon@chasehigh.org



LORIC Week:

As part of LORIC week, pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been completing tasks in tutor time based around our character education strands. Year 7 have been focusing on **resilience**, competing to create the tallest tower. Year 8 have been fund raising as much money as they can for a charity in the **leadership** task. Year 9 are working on their **communication** skills in the newspaper bridge challenge, and Year 10 have become inventors in the Dragons Den challenge, focusing on **initiative**. Well done to all pupils for engaging in the LORIC tasks.



Year 13 Parents' Evening:

We are holding our Year 13 Parents' Evening online on Thursday 8 February from 3.00 pm and hope all parents/carers take advantage of speaking with staff about their child's attainment and engagement. The booking system is now open. If you are having difficulties in booking appointments, please email sixthform@chasehigh.org

Click here to book an appointment now!





Girls Cricket Competition:

Congratulations to our U15 Girls Cricket team for their amazing performance at the School Countdown Competition Tier 2 Cricket this week. They did a fantastic job and came second in the tournament!



Word of the Week:

The word of the week from Monday 22 January 2024 is **Measure**; to find out the size, mass or amount of something using specific units.

Measure

To find out the size, mass or amount of something using specific units.

LORIC
COMMUNICATION



House points totals for this week



790



997



712



937



Dates for your Diary:

06.02.24 Take Your Child to Work Day – Year 8

08.02.24 Year 13 Parents' Evening

12.02.24 – 16.02.24 Celebration Assemblies

19.02.24 – 23.02.24 Half Term Holiday



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday