



14 March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

Please be aware that we are updating our web filtering system. **From Monday 17 March, school accounts will be filtered both at school and at home.** Previously, filtering only occurred on the school network. Monitoring of school accounts has always taken place both in and out of school.

This change means that students may encounter some websites being blocked on their school accounts when accessing the internet from home. We want to ensure you are aware of this change and understand that it is a measure we are taking to remain compliant with our obligations to maintain a safe online learning environment.

**Please note that this filtering only applies to AHS accounts; it will not extend to personal accounts students may use on their devices at home. We still encourage parents to continue to exercise vigilance when supervising the use of the internet at home. This change shouldn't be viewed as a catch-all that will mitigate all risks.**

On a related issue, I also wanted to make you aware of our increasing concerns over young people's use of **AI chatbots**. Along with our colleagues in other schools, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of alerts for even quite young students having adult conversations with AI Chatbots such as Talkie AI and Character AI.

I would like to draw your attention to a recent [article](#) on Parent Zone on this topic and the detailed [report](#) from Voice Box on the issues we need to be aware of.

The main concerns we have about students' access to AI sites are:

- Exposure to risky behaviours from AI chatbots, including sexually charged dialogue and references to self-harm
- Young people being led down increasingly adult themes through the questions they are asked by the AI character
- A lack of age-verification for AI chatbots giving children access to adult content
- Platforms hosting these Chatbots may not have robust data security or encryption facilities which could expose children's data and breach GDPR requirements
- Some AI chatbots actively encourage young people to make in app purchases

We will always inform parents if we receive an alert that students have been using these sites in a concerning way and we have reminded students that this is the case. **However students are still able to use these if they are on their personal accounts at home, even if they are using an AHS chromebook.** We would be grateful if you could take the time to have a conversation with your child on this. Please see some further good advice for parents on this at [Internet Matters](#)

For advice on ensuring your internet is appropriately filtered at home, please do look at the advice from the NSPCC [here](#) and the Safer Internet Centre [here](#).

Finally ,a reminder that on Wednesday 26 March we are holding a parent afternoon on “Artificial Intelligence: how AHS is supporting your daughter to learn effectively and thrive in a world of AI, and how you can support from home.” Please see the Headmistress’ Newsletter for more information and how to book a place.

Kind regards

Mrs Harriet Queralt

Pastoral Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead