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Dear Parents and Carers

Last week saw the premier of the new SBS drama 'The Hunting' (8.30pm Thursdays), which explores the experiences of teenagers as they traverse the complexities of relationships, identity and sexuality via technology.

Following the lives of four young Australians, their teachers and families throughout the lead up, revelation and aftermath of a nude teen photo scandal, the timely series aims to promote discussion and awareness to enable positive experiences for young people online.

We are aware this show is being viewed by a number of senior students and families already and it is generating valuable discussions. 'The Hunting' is rated M, and is therefore rated as not appropriate viewing for younger students, however, the themes of the show and associated resources hold some valuable information to support parents in having conversations with secondary students of all ages.

Young people are increasingly exploring their sexuality online, with 26 per cent of teens having sent a nude or sexual image or video of themselves to someone else. Further research from the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) reveals one in 10 Australians have experienced image-based abuse (IBA). This includes intimate, nude or sexual images that are sent without the consent of those featured. Intimate images may also include images or videos that have been altered (i.e. photo shopped), or that depict a person without attire of religious or cultural significance which they would normally wear in public.

For every victim, the experience is different, but often it causes anger, depression, anxiety and feelings of humiliation, and affects their families, social relationships, and overall wellbeing. Experts suggest conversations about online safety should start in the home, as soon as we hand over devices to children, and be reinforced through their educational journey.

In partnership with eSafety, SBS has created resources aligned to themes explored in the series. Available through SBS's education portal, SBS Learn, the materials are designed to provide families, carers, teachers and the school community with conversation starters that help address image sharing and cyberbullying with young people, and promote safe and positive experiences online. Attached is a parent discussion guide to support these conversations and further resources are available via the SBS Learn portal <https://www.sbs.com.au/learn/the-hunting> and the eSafety website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

As a College we are keen to explore the experiences of our students in relation to digital citizenship, online behaviours and cybersafety. In partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services and the Bendigo Secondary Education Wellbeing Network, all Catherine McAuley College students will be invited to complete an online survey in coming weeks which aims to gain information from students at secondary colleges in Greater Bendigo regarding online behaviours and cybersafety. No personal identifiable information will be collected as part of the survey and the results of these surveys will be used to support the development of Cyber Safety education. Further information about this survey will be communicated to parents and carers in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Ben Fitzpatrick**  
Deputy Principal – St Mary's

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