

Internet Safety Advice Letter to a Friend

Dear Michael

I hope you are well and have been managing to keep up with your online work over the last few months. That's the reason I'm writing to you today mainly, I had a bit of a bad experience online and wanted to make sure the same thing doesn't happen to you!

A couple of weeks ago, my classmates and I were in a Zoom lesson and suddenly, an outsider logged themselves in and disrupted the whole lesson by sharing some pretty ugly images! Mrs Jones was furious! We had to end the lesson and it turns out somebody in our class made the mistake of sharing the password on their Snap Chat account.

It got me thinking, the internet is quite an unsafe place if we aren't careful. People can steal our details if we don't use strong passwords and find out lots of personal information about us! Also, if we share images of ourselves, I heard they can stay in circulation permanently, because we just don't know who is seeing or sharing them. How scary is that! My mum keeps telling me about strangers and the importance of knowing who I'm talking to online, because anybody can pretend to be another person online. I'm really careful about who I 'friend' on different sites.

My main hope is that you stay safe too, so here are some tips. Make sure you change your passwords regularly, and that they are really strong, not something that's easy to guess. Also, be weary of who you add on your social media, make sure they are who they say they are. Finally, if you're going to send an image, think twice about whether you want that image to be seen by potentially hundreds of people, because once you press send, it's gone! Finally, in a world of trolls, I think it's really important to be kind. I heard the other day about a boy who got into lots of trouble for making nasty comments on snap chat (he denied it) but the evidence was there as the victim had the sense to take a screenshot!

Anyway, I hope this helps a little, as I know you're not a fan of being online. It really is super important to stay safe when you are though, I'd hate to think of you having issues.

I hope you're well, Michael. I'm looking forward to your birthday party.

Take care,

Jess xox