**Staying safe online by Annabel Amadasun**

With all the funny pictures, memes and inspiring videos, the internet can really be a wonderful place for kids and teens. Trumping Graham Bell’s telephone, Marconi’s Radio and Farnsworth’s television, the internet has revolutionized our lives like nothing before.

There are many positive things we could all say about the internet, but what about the negatives, that could be easily overlooked by children and teenagers? Online access truly is a double-edged sword that comes with risks such as cyber bullying and online predators. As kids get older and enter secondary school, parents may find it trickier to monitor their online time as teenagers usually want (and need) some privacy.

At Holy Family, we believe that internet safety shouldn’t be an awkward lesson, it should form part of a continuing conversation. Speaking from experience, I know that sometimes younger students may it harder or embarrassing to speak up when a teacher or an adult is around in opposed to speaking up around a peer or another teenager, this is why our teachers felt it would be best if we spoke to the younger students of Holy Family personally, giving them a chance to voice their concerns about staying safe online or to ask questions. This also provides a chance for the younger students to speak to people who can relate to them and may share the same experiences as them.

We each made enlightening power-points presentations, eye catching posters and an enjoyable and educational Kahoot quiz for all Holy Family students to partake in. In these, we included some internet safety tips such as -

* Use a strong password
* Don’t give out your password
* Use a different password for each of your social media accounts.
* If you have social media apps on your phone, be sure to password protect your device.
* Be selective with friend requests
* Click links with caution

We also included advice such as -

* Choose to ask for consent (When posting pictures of videos of others)
* Choose to find out more
* Choose to be in control (Of your account and privacy settings)
* Choose to talk about it (Cyberbullying)

We, the TY students and staff of Holy Family, think it is extremely important that we educate our younger students of the benefits of the internet, as well as the risks, in a way that respects their privacy, and also teaches them ways to browse more safely and confidently.

We strongly believe that this internet safety day, we will be able to make a difference by ensuring that the younger students of Holy Family may benefit from the funny videos and apps on internet, without being exploited and exposed to the many potential dangers.