

THE LEIGH ACADEMY



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Principal: Mrs Julia Collins

17th October 2018

JCO/VLU/MoneyMuling

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of our continuing commitment to the safeguarding of your daughter/son, we would like to bring to your attention an issue that has affected a small number of young people in the Dartford area. It is often referred to as 'Money Muling' and can involve the recruitment of innocent young people to disclose their bank account details. These bank details are then used to deposit and transfer illegally obtained funds.

Some young people in SE London and NW Kent have been targeted by criminals with the promise of making 'easy money'. Social media has been used as a recruitment tool by these criminal gangs. It is important that we remind our young people of the importance of common sense if an approach is made with an offer that is 'too good to believe'.

Through collaboration with other local schools and the regional Police Commissioner, we will continue to keep our students and parents informed of any developments, especially if the Academy does become a target of individuals working for these criminal gangs. The Leigh Academy has not been targeted so far but the problem has caused real concerns in several local schools and we should all remain vigilant to protect our young people.

We encourage you to discuss this issue with your daughter/son if you feel it is appropriate. It is particularly important to stress the importance of privacy with their personal information, carefully guarding their bank and contact details and to regularly change important internet passwords. You can find further advice on this matter by visiting <https://www.moneymules.co.uk>

If you would like any further information regarding any of the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the senior staff at the school.

Yours faithfully

Julia Collins
Principal



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