



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to inform you of some extremely concerning news that has been brought to my attention. Dorset Police have made me aware of online material advertising and promoting a so-called "National Rape Day" on 24<sup>th</sup> April. This disturbing trend has emerged on TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and students in Dorset have reported seeing this content frequently when they are online. Please encourage your child to not share or respond to this content.

This national "trend" began elsewhere and has now gone viral, and students are seeing many different online references to this disturbing event. It is highly likely that any students using these social media platforms may have seen material which attempts to make jokes out of something as abhorrent as rape and sexual abuse.

I have also been informed that some online material has been advising young people to carry a weapon on 24<sup>th</sup> April to stay safe; obviously, this is illegal and should not be encouraged.

Please can I urge you, as parents and carers, to discuss this issue with your child to ensure that they are not engaging with this material. It is highly likely that some students may have found the content distressing.

I must make it absolutely clear that there will be extremely serious consequences for any student found to be sharing such material in any form, or for bringing anything into school that might be considered a weapon.

As a school, we have been liaising with the Safer Schools and Communities team at Dorset Police; we are in communication with them and are acting on advice and support given.

Kind Regards,

Mrs S Hendrie  
Assistant Principal & Safeguarding Lead