

## **BE SAFE ONLINE!**

A..... was just a regular teenage girl. Her mobile phone and the internet featured in her everyday life. She was well-liked by her friends and had around 400 friends on *Facebook*, all of whom she knew. However, in September 2009, A..... added a good-looking 17-year-old boy going by the name of Peter. A..... was one of 173 people to accept him as a friend on the networking site, almost all of which were young women. After speaking to Peter on *Facebook*, she added him on other popular networking sites and began to chat online with him regularly on *MSN* and *tagged.com*.

One month later, Peter enticed A..... to meet him in person; she packed her bags and told her mother she was 'going to stay at her friend's'. Peter texted A..... to say that he was playing football and that his dad was going to pick her up and bring her to his house. This was followed up by a text from the 'father' from another phone. Within hours, she had been assaulted and killed. Her body was dumped in a field. Peter and his father never existed; the *Facebook* profile was a fake created by an offender. Her murderer was arrested and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

A.....'s one mistake in adding a stranger as a friend cost her life and cost her family a lovely young girl. A.....'s friends have launched a campaign, highlighting the potential dangers of the internet by creating a set of rules, in the hope that they will keep young people safe in the future.

Source: Cheshire Police

### **A.....'s Rules**

- 1. If ever you are meeting up with somebody who is unknown to you or your friends, make sure that you meet them in a group of at least two to three, in public and in a well-lit and populated area.**
- 2. Inform somebody of where you are going and what time you should be back; also the name of the person you are meeting.**
- 3. Don't accept anyone on social networking sites that you don't know.**
- 4. Remember never to trust anyone you have met online - you don't know what they are capable of doing.**
- 5. Never tell a stranger on networking sites or chat rooms anything personal about yourself, such as where you live or your date of birth.**
- 6. Never meet anyone you don't know.**

