SLAM DUNK!

Sam, Salvatore and Max all have the same group of friends at St. Mary's school. Salvatore and Max are on the school's basketball team, but Sam was dropped after the selection camp at the beginning of the year. Although he's since joined the school's tennis team, Sam is still disappointed he didn't make the basketball team. He really wants to be chosen at next year's selection camp and practises hard in his parents' driveway, where he takes photographs of himself scoring "slam dunks" (baskets).

The photographs are close-ups and some students start a rumour that Sam actually has his feet on the ground when scoring the baskets. Every time he posts a photograph on *Instagram,* Sam adds the **hashtag** "**#SamDunk.**" Lots of people have "**liked**" his photographs.
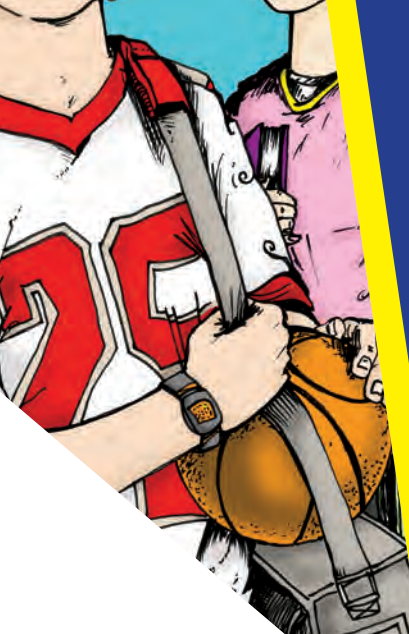
Salvatore and Max think this is hilarious and use "SamDunk" jokingly with the rest of the basketball team every time someone misses a basket.

However, the situation has deteriorated recently. Some of the players have posted *Instagram* photographs of themselves parodying Sam's positions. They do this every time Sam posts a new image. Because of the **hashtags**, Sam has figured out what they are doing and is becoming upset about it. He sends a message to Salvatore and Max on *Facebook*.

Sam _ x

Sam
Hey, what is "SamDunk" all about? Are you two behind it?

Max
No! You started it yourself! Don't you remember: #SamDunk? Hahaha!

Salvatore
Well, it's just a joke, man. Take it easy. It's meant to be funny.

Sam
You're all mocking me. I really do the "dunks." I'm good at it. I'm going to make the team next year.

Max
Yes, sure, man. We believe you. But if you really can do "dunks," why do we never see your feet in the air in your photos?

Sam
Because I can't put the whole photograph on *Instagram.* It's just a crop.

Max
Listen, we're not going to stop having fun with "SamDunk." No chance. It's become a joke on our team.

Salvatore
Stick to tennis!

Sam
I don't care. Keep laughing. We'll see whether I still want to hang out with you guys.

Sam, Max, Salvatore   x

Sam is furious and starts posting altered photographs on *Instagram* showing Salvatore and Max with the bodies of other people he finds on Google. One of the photos gets 55 "likes," and some of the players on the basketball team decide to share it on *Facebook*. The following day, someone prints it out and tapes it to the basketball coach's office door.

Questions?

- Do you think what Sam said on *Facebook* is acceptable? Why?

- After the discussion on *Facebook*, why do you think Sam has posted altered photographs of his friends on *Instagram*?

- What consequences will the posts have for the basketball team? For Max, Salvatore and Sam?

- What did the basketball players do to make the situation worse? What could they have done differently?

- In the classroom or on the "Be cyber cool" platform, comment on the last photograph posted by Sam.

BE IN THE KNOW!

Under Bill 56, *An Act to prevent and stop bullying and violence in schools*, there may be a variety of consequences for people involved in cyberbullying.