

January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Use of Social Media

Amongst the many unforeseen consequences of the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic, has been the growing prevalence and influence of technology and media in our lives. Navigating both the opportunities and challenges this presents is complicated, particularly for young people, for whom social media has become woven into the fabric of their lives. Having worked through a number of issues since our return to school in September, we would like to share our learning and take this opportunity to remind you of how you can support your child to use Social Media positively and safely.

It is important to preface this being stating how proud we are of our students. Many of them use Social Media to communicate effectively with others and share positive messages. However, we want to recognise that lots of young people need support with managing and using Social Media. In order to address this as a school, we have delivered Assemblies, Tutor Sessions, WorkShops and PSHE lessons on how to use Social Media positively, effectively and safely.

The danger is that when used inappropriately, Social Media can cause harm, upset, anxiety and have significant adverse effects on student wellbeing, health and their learning.

It is worth noting that many Social Media Platforms should not be used by anyone under the age of 16 and we would encourage parents and carers to actively monitor and manage their child's phone use, particularly of WhatsApp, TikTok and other Social Media platforms.

Support and guidance on helping guide your child with Social Media can be found here -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/social-media/>

In the event that your child receives any threatening or inappropriate messages, or if you have a particular concern, please report this to the authorities by phoning 101. We would be grateful if you would also inform our school.

If you have any questions please contact your child's Tutor, Pastoral Leader or Head of Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Henry', with a small yellow highlight on the right side of the signature.

Mr Ian Henry

Assistant Headteacher of Behaviour & Attitudes Years 7 - 11