

Thursday, 27 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Inappropriate footage and Social Media Groups amongst Year 7

It has come to our attention that there is footage of a pornographic nature circulating amongst the social media platforms of students in Year 7, specifically, WhatsApp.

We are currently carrying out investigations and will be unlikely to conclude them this week, however, with the approaching half term we wanted to alert our parent community so you can address this with your child before they return to school on Monday 7th June.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our students, we want to ensure that all our parents feel empowered to monitor the digital activity of their children.

Social media, used inappropriately, can be a breeding ground for bullying, intimidation and can contribute to corrupting the minds and wellbeing of students. Anything shared on a social media platform can either be downloaded or screen shot and kept, shown and recirculated forever, which in turn can negatively affect our students' future prospects. This is because, it leaves a digital footprint attached to the individual's personal profile. Any thing of a sexual nature that is shared is a criminal offence.

In an effort to protect our students, **student social media groups are now banned**. There will be a sanction given if, as part of any investigation, your child is found included in them.

If students are sharing offensive or inappropriate language, inappropriate images/videos or engaging in bullying of any kind, we will involve the police as this may constitute criminal behaviour.

All social media platforms have age restrictions, this includes WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Discord and Skype. Please ensure these social media platforms are age appropriate before allowing your child to access them.

I would strongly encourage deleting these social media platforms from your child's phone, tablet or computer. If you allow your child to have these apps, you must monitor them regularly and speak to your child about who they are contacting and how. If you discover any form of abuse or inappropriate activity on these apps, please report it to the School immediately.

Please have a look at this link for further advice and also <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/> have a look at E-Safety section of our website for additional information.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Miriam Manderson
Headteacher