

March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our students, we would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention our concerns regarding student use of social media.

Social media platforms are becoming a breeding ground for bullying. Social media groups within school allow bullying to escalate very quickly and at times go undetected. 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.

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

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

All social media platforms have age restrictions, this includes WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Musical.ly, TikTok 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, please monitor them regularly and speak to your child about who they are contacting and how. If you discover any form of abuse on these apps, please report it to the College immediately.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Miriam Manderson  
**Headteacher**