

Dear Parent/Carer

5th October 2018

Use of Social Media

I write to ask for your support in ensuring that our students do not use social media to undermine, threaten or abuse each other or post images/videos of themselves or each other that could have lasting consequences. Whilst there is much to commend social media, when used properly, it is all too quick for people to make thoughtless, insensitive and offensive comments. Recently we have seen a rise in the number of incidents outside of school when using social media which have subsequently impacted upon relationships and the community within school. We have also found that staff are dealing with incidents which are often outside of our control and very difficult to rectify after the event.

The best approach we feel is a comprehensive one with on-going education in online safety and responsible use. During the week commencing 8th October, Heads of Year will be delivering assemblies to all year groups which will focus upon the safe use of mobile technologies. However, prior to that I would be grateful if you would engage in a conversation with your daughter/son about their own use of social media and the Internet and how they should ensure that use of these social media platforms is responsible and does not cause offence to others. You may find it helpful to access online information resources to provide further information on children's use of social media; <https://www.net-aware.org.uk> being one such website.

It is also worth noting that virtually all common social media platforms indicate a minimum age use of 13 years. Therefore, our younger students should not have access to any such apps/sites.

Mobile Phones in school

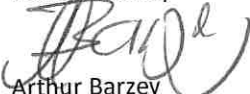
I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of our protocol in relation to the possession of mobile phones in school.

We would prefer that mobile phones were not brought into school given their high value and ease of breakage and loss. However, we also recognise that many parents prefer that their child has a means of contacting them on their journey to and from school. If your child does bring their phone into school they do so at their own risk and upon the understanding that they are switched off and stored out of sight. Students should not use phones for any activity throughout the school day irrespective of the reason. Any mobile phone seen by a member of staff will be confiscated and not returned until the end of the school day. A parent/carers is required to collect the phone from the school office.

Should the need arise to make emergency contact either to or from your child, this should be done via the school office as normal.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters and your support in helping to protect our students.

Yours sincerely



Arthur Barzey
Headteacher

