12 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**Important Information About Social Media Use Among Year 7 Students**

I wanted to bring to your attention the use of WhatsApp and other social media platforms among our Year 7 students. While these platforms can be useful for communication, there are growing concerns about their impact on student wellbeing, particularly when used in unmonitored group chats.

Some of our Year 7 students are involved in WhatsApp groups that include multiple classmates. Unfortunately, these groups can sometimes lead to misunderstandings, unkind comments, and inappropriate content being shared, all of which can negatively affect a child's emotional wellbeing.

Additionally, we’ve observed that certain trends on platforms like TikTok are influencing student behaviour and interactions. While many trends seem harmless or fun at first, some can promote inappropriate, unsafe, or unkind behaviour. It’s important to stay informed about the content your child is engaging with, as trends can escalate quickly and sometimes foster negativity or even risky challenges.

As parents, it's important to monitor and make informed decisions about your child's participation in these groups and online trends. We strongly recommend that parents regularly check their child's WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms to ensure they are appropriate. If you feel that a group or trend is not beneficial or could be contributing to any form of distress, we encourage you to consider taking steps such as removing your child from the group or discussing the trend’s impact with them.

Please remember, it’s essential that children understand the responsibilities and risks associated with social media use, including maintaining respectful communication, managing their privacy settings, and recognising the importance of reporting any concerns.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and positive environment for our students.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Robinson

Head of Year 7