

21 October 2020

Dear Parents

Safe Use of Social Media

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a guide for parents produced by Internetmatters.org in association with the NSPCC and UK Safer Internet Centre. You can view and download the guide by clicking [here](#). It is also available on our website.

I also wanted to draw your attention to the fact that all of the most popular social media apps (including Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok) have minimum age requirements and that even with the best privacy settings in place, a child cannot be completely protected from online risks. It therefore remains vitally important that you talk to your child about the implications of social media use and that you are aware of how they might be using it. In school, students will be reminded of the fact that:

- People may not be who they claim to be online
- Privacy settings should be at the highest level and passwords must never be shared
- You should never post or share photos or videos in your school uniform or share personal details
- You must never access or attempt to use another person's account
- You should never respond to a message received from an unknown number or profile
- It is a criminal offence to share offensive or otherwise inappropriate content with someone else online (especially serious if that person has not consented e.g. as part of a group chat)
- It is a criminal offence to impersonate someone else online and/or set up an account in someone else's name
- You must not follow or send 'friend requests' to members of staff at school

I would be grateful of your support in reinforcing these messages with your child at home. If you do have any concerns about your child's use of social media, please get in touch with our pastoral support team.

Yours faithfully



Mr Andrew Pettit
Head of School