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24th February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Student Use of Social Media and Online Social Platforms

Firstly, we hope you and your family have had a restful half term and that students are returning ready for success in the second half of the academic year.

Unfortunately, we are noticing a huge increase in incidents relating to student use of online social platforms, such as TikTok, WhatsApp, and Instagram. These incidents range from fake accounts being setup, to online bullying, to sharing harmful content and photos/videos of students publicly without consent.

Whilst we can support students with the impact of online bullying and educate on how to stay safe online, we are limited on what we can do to tackle this outside of school or if we cannot identify the creator of any harmful content.

If possible, please can we ask parents and carers to monitor students' use of online social platforms at home and to document and report any concerning accounts or content to the social media company. This is the recommended immediate action from the police. Following this, there are a number of organisations available to support individuals with these types of incidents. You can seek support from the police by calling 101 or seek help through the following websites: -

[Cyberbullying | Bullying online advice](#)

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

[Protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Stop Homophobic, Transphobic, Racial, Religious & Disability Hate Crime - True Vision](#)

We hope that with combined action, we can keep all our young people safe in and outside of school.

Thank you for your endless support.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Harold
Head of Key Stage 3 and Teacher of Science