



Dear Students, Parent and Carers,

Use of SNAP CHAT, Misuse of Mobile Devices, and Inappropriate Sharing of Images

We are writing to inform you of an issue that has come to our attention within the Year 7 student body.

We have been made aware and subsequently investigating a snapchat group where some students have been using mobile devices on school premises and sharing images taken within the school. These images are largely of members of staff taken during lessons and have been taken and shared by a small number of students. These students are being appropriately sanctioned individually and parents have or will be contacted directly. However nearly all students within the year group are part of the online chat where these images have been shared.

An immediate observation is that the legal age for Snap Chat users is in fact 13+. This is clearly stated in all guidance Therefore, no students in Year 7 should even have access to this social media forum. Further guidance can be found in the link below:

[Is Snapchat safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are of utmost importance to us, and it is our responsibility to ensure that the Academy is a secure and respectful environment for everyone. Misuse of mobile devices and inappropriate sharing of images can not only disrupt the learning environment but also lead to emotional distress for individuals in these images. We believe that it is essential for parents and the school to work together to address this issue and educate our students about responsible and respectful technology use.

We have already taken some steps to address this issue with the Year 7 students. They have had a year group briefing where the seriousness of this matter was explained to them. In addition, Mr. Underwood, Principal, will be leading an assembly today to address the issue directly with the students. We will be discussing the importance of responsible technology use, digital etiquette, and the consequences of misusing mobile devices within the school premises. This is already part of our Personal Development curriculum at the Academy, but it is important we intervene quickly to make sure this behaviour ceases.

Students have been advised to both remove themselves from the social media platform and the Year 7 group that has formed. This should be done in the next 24 hours or less.

We also appreciate your support in addressing this issue with your child at home. We believe that a collaborative effort between the school and parents is crucial to reinforcing the message of responsible technology use. Please take the time to discuss this matter with your child, emphasizing the importance of treating staff, students, and the learning environment in our community with respect and kindness both in person and online. If your child is part of the Snapchat group in question, we strongly encourage them to remove themselves from it.

We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all our students, and we believe that, together, we can make a difference in fostering responsible digital citizenship among our Year 7 students.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us address this issue effectively. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Head of Year Mrs. Ashley.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Prior
Vice Principal