



# BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## BRENTFORD 6<sup>th</sup> FORM

VISION | CREATIVITY | EXCELLENCE

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23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

DSI/mm

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **RE: Misuse of social media accounts**

I am writing to ask for your urgent support. You may have seen information in the news about misuse of social media accounts by students and the negative impact these are having on teachers and staff in schools. This is something affecting most secondary schools across the country and our school is no exception.

We are aware of TikTok videos being created using images of some of our staff and Instagram accounts being set up using our school name. Many of the images are defamatory and the language and tone wholly inappropriate. We are doing our best to identify the students involved in creating these accounts and images. I wish to remind you this activity is illegal and could result in prosecutions as malicious communications. Although we provide our students' with regular e-safety training, a few of our students may not grasp the seriousness of their actions when using social media inappropriately. Our first concern is the welfare of our students and what they are able to access on their phones. However, I am also concerned about our staff. There is a real retention crisis in schools in the UK with a significant number of teachers leaving the profession because of the treatment they are receiving from a minority of children. They do not deserve this, so I would ask you to make sure that your child is not one of those causing the problem either directly (by posting the content) or indirectly (by following these accounts or not reporting this activity). Last week we had to suspend two of our students who were responsible for creating some of these TikTok videos. This was a hard decision to take however, we felt it necessary and if further sanctions are needed or police need to be involved then we will take whatever action is necessary to protect our staff.

You may believe your child would not be involved in such activity but please remember that following an illegal account or sharing images (whether your child created them or not) is a serious issue so it would be advisable for you to be vigilant to ensure that this isn't the case. Aside from potential illegality, these actions are neither kind nor compassionate and are not in keeping with the ethos we promote. Please could you monitor the social media apps that your daughter may be using and check regularly that these are being used appropriately.

We appreciate your support in this matter and if there is anything you would like to discuss in this regard, please contact your daughter's head of year in the first instance.

Many thanks.

Ms Singh

**Head of School**

*If you are invited to come into school, as a parent/carer or any other purpose we are asking, to assist with reducing the spread of Covid 19, to bring and wear a mask at all times whilst on the school site and to complete a 'Test and Trace' form. Many thanks for your cooperation.*

**"TOP 100 NON-SELECTIVE STATE-FUNDED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY" NICK GIBB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS (FEBRUARY 2016)**

