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6th October 2026 YAG/cg

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Online Safety

I wanted to get in touch about an online safety concern that has come to my attention involving some of our Year 7 students.

We are aware that some students have been sent inappropriate images via social media apps and group chats. We are taking this seriously and are dealing with this in school in line with our safeguarding and behaviour policy.

We would also like to highlight a particular concern around WhatsApp groups. Some of these groups are open for anyone to join, or can be joined via an invitation link, meaning there may be no restrictions on who can access the group or on what content is shared within it. This means that children may be exposed to messages, images or other content from people they do not know and that is not appropriate for their age. We would therefore strongly recommend that parents check which WhatsApp groups their daughter is part of and consider leaving any groups where the members are not known to her or where inappropriate content is being shared.

We will be speaking to the girls about this and will also be running an extra online safety session with Year 7. This will give them the opportunity to talk about what is happening, remind them about staying safe online and make sure they know what to do if they are contacted by someone they don't know or receive something inappropriate.

We would also really appreciate your support at home. It would be a good idea to sit down with your daughter and check her social media accounts together if she has any.

Please check:

- That her accounts are set to private.
- Who can message, follow or add her.
- Her followers/friends list and remove anyone she doesn't know in real life.
- That she isn't sharing her school, address, phone number or location.
- That location sharing is switched off where possible.
- That she knows not to accept requests from people she doesn't know, even if they appear to be a similar age.
- That she knows not to send photos or videos to people she doesn't know.

If your daughter receives an inappropriate message or image, please encourage her not to reply or share it with friends. She should tell you or another trusted adult and report the account immediately.

We would also like to remind parents that most social media platforms have a minimum age of 13. These age limits are there for a reason, and we strongly recommend that children do not have accounts on platforms that they are underage for.

We know that keeping on top of what children are doing online can be difficult, especially when they feel that everyone else is using a particular app. Regularly checking in with them and looking at their accounts together can really help.

Most importantly, please remind your daughter that she will not be in trouble for telling you or a trusted adult about something that has happened online. We want them to feel confident seeking help if something doesn't feel right.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours faithfully,

A Hennessy

Miss A Hennessy
Head of Year 7