



Archbishop Tenison's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers

### **Year 7 - Inappropriate use of Social Media Platforms**

We have become increasingly aware that a number of Year 7 pupils are putting other pupils at risk through their poor choices on social media. Recent phone checks have shown that a number of pupils have taken images or videos of their peers without consent, some of which have been taken on the school site (for example in the toilet), during lessons, and also travelling to and from school. There have also been a small number of cases of cyberbullying, which we all know can have a very negative impact on young people. This type of use of social media is not appropriate and cannot be something which is accepted or normalised.

Please note that 'phone checks' are only carried out if there is a concern about inappropriate or unsafe use of social media. Our recent 'phone checks' confirmed that some Year 7 pupils have photo images and video footage of their peers, which have been taken without consent and have been shared. Some pupils have also been searching inappropriate material with some of the account names being highly inappropriate.

Parents and carers can support the safe use of social media in a healthy and positive way by agreeing a day and time with their child each week, to go through their use of social media. From what images have been seen and the choice of account names on TikTok, I think that not enough parents and carers are currently monitoring their child's use of social media. This is not always an easy task, but it is an important responsibility for parents and carers, if we are to help pupils to learn to communicate in a kind, thoughtful and healthy way. Below is a helpful website that provides resources and guidance on how to keep your child safe online.

#### [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

If you are aware of any misuse of social media, please report it to school immediately. Often the impact of misuse is played out in schools and early communication helps to prevent situations worsening or having a more significant negative impact on our community.

We will continue to communicate with our community about safe use of mobile phones and social media and treat any misuse very seriously.

Many thanks for engaging with this communication.

Yours sincerely

Mr I Rushton  
Senior Pastoral Leader