



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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10th November 2020

Dear parent/carers of Year 8 Students,

Re: Social Media

I am writing to draw your attention to the use of social media in the year group. As we know, social media is a tool that can often be used maliciously as a form of bullying and an easy way to make harmful comments. It has been reported to us that a variety of students across the year, plus people from outside of the school community, are using social media to spread hurtful rumours and make threats to others. Whilst we can encourage appropriate use of social media with our students anything further should be reported as a police matter if warranted.

Whilst as a school we are able to remind students of the downsides of social media, it is your responsibility as a parent/carer to ensure that your child is protected when using social media. Some key points to remember when discussing the use of social media with your child:

- Most social media platforms have an **age limit of 13** – this means any students younger than this should not have an account on this platform. (This includes snapchat; Instagram; facebook; tiktok.)
- Whatsapp is an anomaly to this age limit and has a recommended age limit of 16.
- If any inappropriate messages or content have been reported to the police, then **the bill payer will be deemed responsible for the content.**
- **Accounts should be private** and therefore only allowing known people to communicate with your child.
- **Students should not add or allow contact with anybody that they do not know.**
- If they have been added to a 'group' that includes people that they do not know then they should remove themselves from the group.
- If students have an established 'group' of friends and an unknown person is added, then they should remove themselves from the group.

Students have had an assembly today that explores friendship and the appropriate use of social media.

The following website may be useful to help your understanding of social media: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>. This website is created as a partnership between the NSPCC and O2 in order to make an easy to use guide for a wide variety of social media platforms. For each platform, there is guidance on how to make accounts private, how to report abuse and a safety rating for you along with other features to help your understanding of different platforms.



If your child has suffered any online abuse or harassment from any other students, then please report this to the police. Guidance for this can be found [here](#).

Kind regards,

Miss Spence
Learning Lead for Year 8

