

5th December 2025

Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers

Re: Group Chats

It has come to our attention that a number of Year 7 students are members of large group chats on social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Snapchat outside of school.

In our experience, it is large group chats where the majority of problems on social media occur. Sadly, in large groups, students are more likely to make and be subject to unkind and sometimes even discriminatory comments. This can then impact negatively on students' wellbeing, lead to physical and verbal conflict and take up a huge amount of staff time, which we should be using to support students in other ways.

I would also like to remind you that no student in Year 7 should be on WhatsApp or Snapchat as you need to be 13 in order to create an account on these platforms.

Please can I ask that you check that your children do not have any of these age-restricted applications on their devices and that they are not members of large group chats. I would also like to remind you of the boundaries that I suggested in my induction day talk for any devices that your students own, including Smartphones:

- Do not allow devices in bedrooms, particularly at night time.
- Agree a time 1 hour before bed that your child will give you their device and don't give it back to them until the morning.
- You have the passcode and tell your child that you may check their device at any point.
- Do not allow access to age restricted apps and content they are not old enough for.
- Do not rely on tech to monitor tech – check yourself.
- Put in screen time limits e.g. no smartphones in the week, smartphone free Sundays, no smartphones between 4-7pm.
- Have a place in the home that they have to leave their phone before they go to school.

I would like to thank you for your support in keeping all our students safe and happy both online and offline.

Yours sincerely



Ms G Cooper
Assistant Head Teacher



**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**

