



4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent/carer,

**Re: Your child's use of Social Media**

We are aware that a number of our Year 7 students are engaging with Social Media. Some use it very sensibly, however there have been a number of incidences where students have used it either naively or for the wrong malicious reasons. Please support the school by monitoring your child's use of Social Media and remind them that for apps such as SnapChat and Instagram, only people who are above 13 years are allowed to have an account. We are aware that many Year 7 students have these accounts set up, so would request that you ensure that your child deletes these accounts.

We will be addressing many of these issues in assemblies and will continually educate regarding Social Media, however the message is made more powerful and effective, with parents and carers reiterating and supporting us with this. It is also extremely valuable when parents and carers actively monitor their child's use of the various websites and apps. In summary please remind your child of the following:

- Year 7 students should not have an Instagram or SnapChat account until they are 13 years of age.
- Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone at any point throughout the school day. If a student needs to contact you in an emergency there is a phone available for them to use in student reception.
- Students are not permitted to take a photo of anybody in our school community without their consent or knowledge.
- Students should not share on social media a photo of a member of staff or images in relation to a member of staff
- Students should consider the items they are sharing on Social Media and must not share anything regarding another person unless they have their consent.
- Students should consider the impact of what they are sharing. In later life this could have severe consequences.
- What goes on Social Media stays on Social Media and once posted it is very hard to reverse the consequences.
- Passwords must be kept securely and students must log off when not using their accounts (especially if on a public computer) so that accounts cannot be accessed by the wrong users.
- If someone shares something that is upsetting or they feel harassed, then the student should block the person from their account and report it. The best way to prevent any upset is to not engage with such sites.

Students who are unable to follow the above guidance and who use Social Media in a way that brings disrepute to, or casts aspersions upon, or makes derogatory comments regarding the school, the CGS staff or other CGS students will be subject to the School Behaviour Policy.

We are very keen to ensure that our students are prepared for life beyond school. As you will be aware there have been cases in the news where adults (or even before they were 18 years old) have not used Social Media responsibly, which has resulted in them losing their jobs, careers (including university and college courses) and in some cases being subject to legal matters. With Social Media and internet use becoming an integral part of

daily life, teachers, parents and carers must work together to educate young people so they are prepared for adult life. Equally we must ensure that young people are aware of staying safe online so that they feel happy and safe when using it.

Just before the end of last term, you will have been sent the link by Mrs Edwards to 'Digital Parenting' - if you have not had the opportunity to follow this link, we have included it once again below:

<http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/>

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Kate Cooper  
Assistant Principal