

# MANOR

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, YORK

Established 1812 • Principal: Mr Simon Barber, MA



25 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I have growing concern over the inappropriate use of social media amongst Year 8, and ask for your assistance in trying to protect and educate our young people when using social media.

Over the past few weeks there have been numerous incidents of inappropriate use of social media, which have spilled over into school. Quite a few pupils in the year group have taken to setting up group chats, sending messages, or having online chats with each other which are negative and hurtful. As well as these individual messages and chats, we are aware that Year 8's have been posting inappropriate comments on an unpleasant group on Instagram called York.confessionsandgossip. This group encourages individuals to anonymously post secrets or pieces of gossip, much of which is of a sexual nature or very nasty comments about others. It has come to my attention that a number of our Year 8's are being named within these posts, and others are liking and commenting on them, which is concerning and highly inappropriate. Even more concerning is that we have also been made aware of some of our young people, particularly the boys, allegedly sending inappropriate images of themselves to other people in the Year group; this is both illegal and a safeguarding issue.

The age limit for most social media is 13 years old, therefore many of our students in Year 8 should not have an account or be accessing these groups. However, if your child does please can you check that they are using it sensibly? Within school the Year 8s are now completing an online safety certificate, and will be having an assembly reiterating the AUP and expected behaviour online. Could you please support this at home by talking to your child about his or her use of social media and technology, and also check devices and accounts making sure that he or she has the appropriate parental settings and that messages sent are appropriate.

Your support in challenging this anti-social and poor behaviour is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Day

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