

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you as we are increasingly concerned about the misuse of social networking sites amongst some of our students, most recently on sites where students can remain anonymous.

We have identified that some of our young students who would not be cruel face-to-face, and who do not see the consequences of their actions, seem to feel justified saying hurtful things online. As a school, we are adamant that **our students interact with each other appropriately and with mutual respect at all times both inside and outside of school hours.**

This morning, we held a gathering for all Year 8 students, supported by Sergeant Paul Evans, to discuss this issue further. We would like to make you aware of the following guidelines and ask you to take action, where necessary:

- Consider telling your child that they are not allowed to use certain social networking sites; check they are age appropriate
- Whether you allow your child to use certain sites or not, have a conversation with them about appropriate use, including how the anonymous or instantaneous nature of online communication can change the way people behave
- Ensure that, where possible, your child adjusts privacy settings so that posts on social networking sites are only seen by those they know
- Please supervise your child's activities online, especially on social networking sites and sit down with them from time to time to monitor what is happening online
- If your child experiences or witnesses online bullying, tell them not to respond. The best option is to print or screen shot the offending post and then delete the "app" and the account
- Please report incidents of online bullying to us or encourage your child to do so. Reports can be made to any member of staff in school.

Further advice on what to do in case of abuse can be found at:

<http://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/Parents/>

Whilst we are not always able to identify the authors of offensive comments or questions posted anonymously, the Police can and we will not hesitate to contact them about anonymous bullying internet activity which is directed at any of our students. Any student who is found to have posted offensive or abusive comments online will be dealt with seriously.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs F McMillan  
Acting Deputy Headteacher

