



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

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DFU/bg

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Dear Parent/Carer

Urgent Follow-Up: Inappropriate Social Media Use Among Year 7 Students

Summary of Actions	Deadline
Engage in thorough discussions with your children about the significance of using social media responsibly.	N/A

I am writing to you again, following my previous correspondence on 12 February, regarding a matter of serious concern at Bottisham Village College. Despite our earlier communication, we continue to witness the formation of unsanctioned WhatsApp groups among Year 7 students, where individuals are added without their consent. These platforms have been misused for sending hundreds of messages, including content that is inappropriate, with some being racist and sexually explicit towards students and staff.

This issue is not confined to WhatsApp alone; similar problems have been observed with Snapchat, where unacceptable racist comments have been made. It is imperative to reiterate that social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Snapchat have specific age requirements for their users: 16 years old for WhatsApp and 13 years old for Snapchat. These regulations are designed to safeguard young users from exposure to harmful content.

At Bottisham Village College, we have taken proactive steps to address this issue and support our students in navigating the complexities of online spaces safely. We have organised additional assemblies focused on the importance of digital citizenship, and we have integrated discussions about online safety within our PSHE education, tutor time, and computing lessons. These initiatives are aimed at equipping our students with the knowledge and skills they need to use the internet responsibly and understand the impact of their online behaviour.

As highlighted in my previous letter, the responsibility to monitor and regulate your child's internet usage at home cannot be overstated. It is essential to ensure they are not participating in or exposed to harmful online behaviours.

We urge you to engage in thorough discussions with your children about the significance of using social media responsibly, respecting others online, and understanding the legal and social ramifications of their online actions. Collaboratively, we must endeavour to cultivate a digital environment that is safe and respectful for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your continued support in these efforts. Together, we can make a significant difference in the well-being of our students.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Fullman
Deputy Principal