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Dear Parent, Carer

We feel compelled to write to you about recent abuse of staff through social media. One post talks about 'F\*\*\*\*g hating' a member of staff. Another post has cropped sensitive school news footage linked to the Macmillan Coffee Morning; a member of staff talks about how Macmillan nurses supported their family when their mother died from cancer. This was followed by cruel mockery. Too many 'likes' by other students on the accounts and various other comments are worrying. **Investigations continue and we would urge anyone to come forward with further information. It will be treated with confidentiality. This school does not and will not tolerate any kind of abuse. No one has the permission to imitate school by using its logo or imagery. There will be consequences for anyone found to be involved and failure to come forward may jeopardise a place within our school.**

Teachers have embraced a new way of working with technology and have put themselves at risk by being on camera delivering live lessons, recording themselves so that lessons can be revisited over time. Our weekly news programme is shared with parents and carers so that you can feel part of our school and know what we are doing or working on.

We urge you as parents/carers to know what social media account(s) your children have on any device and what they are posting and liking. Please:

- Insist (don't ask) on being a 'Friend' on your child's social media accounts. Do not tolerate inappropriate use by your child(ren). If it continues, cancel their account. Not only are you the bill-payer, but you are the adult and therefore responsible.
- Explain to your child(ren) that participation in online abuse is a criminal offence. This could be as simple as 'liking' an inappropriate comment from another person. The police are treating this issue with the greatest seriousness and the number of prosecutions has been rising across the country.
- Explain to your child(ren) many platforms are for ages 13+ which means all Year 7 and most of Year 8 should not even have social media accounts.
- Explain to your child(ren) that any account leaves a digital footprint, even if deleted, and this could affect future employment.

The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/carers. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your children and there is advice intended to support you in this process on our website. The link for this is [here](#).

We know that the vast majority of students and parents/carers uphold our values and this is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Fox  
Headteacher