



18th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to ask for your urgent support.

You may have seen information in the news about the misuse of social media by students and the negative impact it is having on staff and schools. This is something that is affecting most secondary schools across the country and unfortunately Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form is no exception.

We are aware that TikTok videos have been created using images of some of our staff. These videos are derogatory, defamatory and disrespectful about individuals and the school itself. These videos have caused significant distress to a number of staff and in some cases continue to do so.

The videos, which were posted a couple of weeks ago, have now been forwarded to the Police and will be investigated as a criminal act. The Police are investigating the source of the videos which are considered malicious communications and harassment. Following the advice of the Police, we will be beginning our investigations in school to try and identify the source and contributors to these posts. If your child has contributed to the chat around these TikTok videos, it is possible that they will be interviewed by our staff.

Unfortunately, some students have found these libellous videos amusing and a small number have continued to taunt members of staff regarding these. All students will be spoken to regarding this with identified students receiving appropriate sanctions and parents/carers informed; this behaviour must stop.

I am sure you will be as appalled as I am at the above information. The majority of our students treat staff and each other with care and respect, a few students are letting us all down and causing significant distress to some staff.

We have shared with you previously information on online safety and social media. The legal minimum age for TikTok is 13, therefore Year 7 and most of Year 8 students **should not** be using this.

Can I please ask you to talk to your child regarding this over the next couple of days in order to:

- ensure that your child (if under 13) does not have access to social media accounts where the age range from the provider does not permit it;
- speak to your child, whatever their age, about the content of this letter and their use of social media;
- sit with your child and look at their phone with them to review the accounts they follow, the content they download, and the nature of the messages they are sending to their peers and uploading.

My concern is for the students' safety and the welfare of our staff and I thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any concerns please let me know by contacting the school office on 0121 675 1305.



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Your telephone call will be treated as confidential and any information shared will be passed to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Kind regards

Mrs Nicola Raggett
Headteacher

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