



THE WENSLEYDALE SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM
LEYBURN

7 February 2022

Dear Parent and Guardians

All parents –Social Media concerns

I am writing to all parents to highlight my concerns about social media usage and the fall out it creates in and out of school. It is Internet Safety week this week and I am determined that we have a cultural shift in our school community about how we interact with each other via social media.

I held an assembly this afternoon for all students, reminding them that they must not use any alteration as an excuse to get their mobile phones out and film these situations. Despite our 'No See, No hear' policy I am being made aware that in toilets- sometimes- phones are coming out and students are making videos of themselves to be sent out via social media. This is a national problem, fueled by YouTube and Tik-Tok. However, it has to stop. We have probably gone further than most schools by having the toilets manned by staff outside the actual facilities at all times. It would be inappropriate to have male and female members of staff actually inside the toilets. However, I have now insisted that phones stay in bags and on silent and if students do have phones in pockets they need to be handed in before using the facilities. They will get them back immediately.

Students fall out and that is inevitable, however any disagreements must not be held over for social media.

As a school we will continue to teach and educate students about the safe and sensible use of social media.

May I take this opportunity to say 99% of the time students behave well, but it is really important that they recognize the damage social media behaviour creates. Someone always gets hurt. I also apologise to those students who are completely innocent in all of this and just want to be able to come to school safely and sensibly.

I have not said that students cannot or should not use social media. However, I have asked them to consider their usage of media and ensure that they take on a more positive way of interacting with each other.

Thank you for your support

Kind regards

Julia Polley
Headteacher

HEADTEACHER Mrs Julia Polley

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