



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official Sensitive

3 October 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you regarding our recent awareness of the emergence of social media groups which large numbers of Year 7 students belong to. Inevitably, groups of such size lead to students falling out and a risk of inappropriate content. We have advised students that any group larger than five or six people does not support positive peer relationships. The minimum age requirements for children using some social platforms are:

- WhatsApp – 13 years old
- Instagram – 13 years old.

Students receive eSafety advice every half term as part of our Personal Development and assembly programme. As well as educating them on identifying and managing risks, we remind students the importance of being kind and positive digital citizens.

Please could you support us by intermittently checking what groups your child belongs to and monitor their content. We also recommend that your child does not have their phone in their bedroom at night. Reminders about never sharing personal information, posting pictures of other people or themselves and how the internet is never private should also be reiterated.

Above all, please always encourage your child to tell an adult at home or in school if they feel unsafe online.

Thank you for your support in the matter.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Woodley
Year Leader – Year 7

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