

6th October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 7 – Social Media Use

I hope that your daughter has enjoyed her first 4 weeks at school and is getting used to her new surroundings. I appreciate that this can be both an exciting and challenging time especially when it comes to meeting new people and making friends.

It has come to my attention that a number of Year 7 students are using social media and messaging platforms to communicate out of school hours. I wanted to draw your attention to the minimum legal age requirement for some of these applications.

Tik Tok, Facebook, Snap Chat and Instagram all require users to be at least 13 years of age whereas WhatsApp require users to be 16 years and over.

Whilst I cannot mandate what applications students choose to be a part of in their own time, it is worth being aware that Year 7 are legally under the age limit required. From my experience, Year 7 students often lack the social maturity to be a part of large WhatsApp and messaging groups and that this can often lead to misunderstandings and fall-outs.

At the Holt, we have a zero-tolerance policy towards any unkindness including that which takes place online. Year 7 students will have an assembly about kindness and acceptable social media use this week. I would kindly ask that you monitor what applications your daughter is a part of and discourage her in joining platforms where she is not yet of the legal age requirement.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Gemma Priddy
Head of Year 7