

# HOLBROOK ACADEMY



Headteacher: Claire Elliott BA(Hons) PGCE  
Deputy Headteacher: George Anstee-Parry, M.Ed, NPQH

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to address a matter of growing concern within our school community regarding the use of social media, specifically WhatsApp.

It has come to our attention that a large group has recently been created on WhatsApp, and many of our students have been invited to join. Unfortunately, this group contains content that is both inappropriate and potentially harmful. Additionally, it includes individuals who are not known to the school, raising further concerns about the safety and security of our students online.

Please be aware that the legal age for using WhatsApp in the UK is 16 years old. Similarly, both Instagram and Snapchat require users to be at least 13 years old. We encourage all parents/carers to review these age restrictions carefully, as these platforms are not designed for younger children and can expose them to risks if used inappropriately.

The Academy has taken swift and decisive action in response to this issue. We have been in contact with the Police and other local schools to ensure that the necessary steps are being taken to address the situation and safeguard all students.

In light of this incident, we have already held emergency assemblies today for each year group involved to remind students of the importance of responsible online behavior and the potential dangers of engaging with unknown individuals on social media. Furthermore, we will be implementing a comprehensive programme on internet safety in the coming weeks to provide students with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

We urge all parents/carers to monitor their child's social media usage closely and to have open discussions about the potential risks associated with these platforms. If your child has been invited to join this WhatsApp group, we strongly recommend that they leave the group immediately.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students, both in school and online. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

*A King*

Alexandra King  
Assistant Headteacher - Safeguarding & Pastoral

