

May 2025



UXBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear parent/carer,

Online Safety

I am writing this letter to you today, to raise an important concern regarding the online safety of our Year 7 students.

It has come to my attention that several Year 7 students are actively misusing social media sites which goes against the terms of service. This includes students being involved in WhatsApp group chats where inappropriate messages have been shared and using TikTok accounts where they are sharing images of students and staff. Some of these online interactions are of a nature that could be considered cyber bullying, and any online content involving the name or insignia of the school actively puts students at risk.

We want to remind all families that, according to the terms of service of these major social media accounts, including WhatsApp, the platforms are not intended for use by children under the age of 13. Despite this, we know that some students in our care are regularly using the app.

Research continues to highlight the negative impact early access to social media platforms can have on the social, emotional, and mental health of young people.

Prolonged exposure to unregulated messaging and content can contribute to increased anxiety, sleep disruption, low self-esteem, and in some cases, serious online abuse.

We strongly urge all parents and carers to:

- Monitor their child's smartphone use regularly;
- Have open conversations about online behaviour and expectations;
- Restrict access to all social media platforms that have age restrictions, including (but not limited to) WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube.

We understand that managing your child's use of technology can be challenging, but working together is essential in keeping our students safe, respectful, and responsible online.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A Morgan
Head of Learning for Year 7

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