

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have recently become aware of a small number of young people, some of whom are students at AGS in Year 7, who may have accessed and/or shared inappropriate content via their mobile phones at various times of the day and night and over a number of days/weeks.

A lot of children in Year 7 are still relatively new to having access to a mobile phone. The phones can be, and very often are, beneficial and an impressive piece of technology to assist in all sorts of ways. A phone can however be misused, and it is this that we, as adults who are responsible for safeguarding the young person, need to offer help with.

In some cases, some young people are accessing and sharing inappropriate material without considering the impact they are having on themselves and others, and the damage this causes. This includes accessing social media platforms that are not age appropriate and communicating with others in a disrespectful and sometimes harmful way.

We are alerting **all** parents/carers who have a child in Year 7, to inform you and to offer our support and advice. **Please be aware that you receiving this letter does not mean your child has misused their phone or been affected by the issue we have highlighted.**

We have taken direct and proportional action with a very small number of individuals whose behaviour warranted it, and we have shared information with the police.

Additionally, we are holding assemblies in school with all children in Year 7, to make clear our shared expectations around safeguarding, phone use and online safety. The role of being a parent/carer/teacher can be challenging when it comes to online safety, as it is an ever-changing world of apps and technologies.

To assist you with supporting your child with this, we are creating a short video which we will send you a link to once it is ready. Please be assured that our pastoral support, alongside our IT and Personal Development curriculum content will also help to reinforce positive behaviours and help increase understanding of safely using this type of technology.

We have enlisted the help of the police, who are coming into school to deliver some digital image related workshops for Year 7 in the second half of this term.

Our website includes advice and links to more guidance on snapchat, social media, online safety, and safeguarding children and young people. You may like to look at an example of this additional advice by clicking this [link](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and please feel free to contact any of Pastoral team in school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Kelly  
Headteacher



Helen Dafforne  
Head of Pastoral Care