

5 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Social media can have both a hugely positive impact on society when used appropriately and sadly, a very negative and harmful effect when used inappropriately. It is always a sad moment when someone within our own community chooses to act inappropriately using social media. This week, a number of students brought to our attention a wholly inappropriate TikTok account that had been created by a student, referencing St Katherine's and our staff team. We cannot and should not underestimate the negative impact acts like this can have on both students and adults within our community.

We spoke to the whole school this morning about internet safety and the importance of keeping ourselves safe online at all times. We reminded students of their digital footprint which once made is always retrievable. We asked all students to carefully consider their actions on social media this week in terms of what they have posted, followed, liked or commented on and how comfortable they would be with their parents/carers, grandparents, future college or employer viewing.

We reminded students that we create and share media within our school community with an underlying level of understanding and respect. Privacy must be respected at all times without compromise and images should never be used without permission. We made it clear to students they have a duty to act responsibly and show respect at all times, echoing our school values. We highlighted the law and in particular the Malicious Communications Act - *'a single instance of a message, or post shared on social media, that would be considered grossly offensive, indecent or obscene'*. When these boundaries are breached we will take action and have reported this instance to the relevant agencies and are cooperating with the police. We have encouraged students to come and share any information they may have.

We would be grateful if you take time to discuss internet safety with your child and remind them of their responsibilities. [SaferInternet](#) provides a useful framework for parents/carers to use.

Following the assembly this morning, we were pleased those involved took swift action and the account was removed.

A sad start to a new term. Monday is a new beginning.

Yours sincerely





Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset BS20 0HU

T: 01275 373737 E: school@stkaths.org.uk www.stkaths.org.uk

 St Katherine's School  @stkathsschool