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Headteacher: Mrs J Hadlow
A Colfe's Associate School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Ref: Phones, Social Media and Apps

I am writing to all parents to notify our community that we have had a small number of unpleasant situations created by some students setting up temporary social media accounts specifically to post unpleasant content designed to target other individuals in the school. This is not acceptable.

We urge parents of students in every year group to regularly check their child's mobile phones. It is the first line of defence for cyber bullying; protecting both yours and others' children.

Temporary social media accounts are usually established, and closed down in short periods of time and regular checks of electronic devices for additional accounts can help protect students from cyber bullying.

Please familiarise yourself with how to check for additional accounts inside the apps that our students most regularly use (TikTok, Snapchat, Kik, Instagram, YouTube, Houseparty), so that efficient and accurate checks of your child devices can be effective.

If you are unsure about how to check your child's phone or other devices please visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> where there is a wealth of information, support and guidance for parents regarding devices and the use of the internet.

Remember that the Conisborough Code is very clear about phones being out of sight if they are brought into school. If a student has a phone out during the school day at all, it will be confiscated. Please remind your son / daughter of this school expectation.

In addition to this, we have some concerns regarding the speed that some students are taking to get home to you; there are occasions where there are students in groups on the Bromley Road up until 5pm. Particularly during these dark evenings and during this specific time of COVID lockdown your children, whatever age they are, must be in the safety of their own home as soon as is possible after school.

There are a range of possible apps you could use to ensure that you know where your child(ren) is when they are not in school, however the most common and useful are the 'Find my iPhone' or 'Find my Device'.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year if you are concerned about apps or accounts on your child's phone or other devices.

Be aware that if you purchased the devices your children own and pay for the contracts, you are liable for all the content on them, should there be anything illegal on them or if they are used for illegal activities. Please ensure that you check your children's phones regularly and discuss how to use them safely.

Best regards

R Fossett

Mrs. Fossett
Assistant Head Teacher
Behaviour, Attitudes and Attendance