



## ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your continued engagement with the school and your support so far this academic year to ensure that your child has the best possible education here at St Mary's College.

As we enter the second half of the academic year, I am acutely aware that many of our pupils are beginning to have access to social media and to use their mobile phones for communication with each other more and more.

In this regard, I would like to ask for your support in ensuring that you monitor your child's social media activity and mobile phone usage to protect their online safety and to avoid any potential issues that may impact upon their education. As you will be aware, the legal age for many social media apps is 13.

Pupils in Year 7 are benefitting from work on online safety which is taking place during their PSHE sessions on a fortnightly basis. I have reiterated to students the key messages around social media usage and the school policy that mobile phones must be switched off and placed in a student's bag while they are on the school site. In addition to this, if we come across any perceived misuse of social media then we will contact parents/carers.

As a school, we use the National Online Safety platform to educate our students on this very important issue. I would strongly encourage you to sign up for a free account with National Online Safety here:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/> It contains lots of useful and practical advice on Online Safety as well as including parental guides to help you talk through these important issues with your child.

If you have any concerns about your child's social media usage, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 7 office.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr Curran*

Head of Year 7

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