



Ramsey Grammar School

Scoill Ghrammeydys Rhumsaa

Invest, Believe, Achieve Together

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Headteacher

Ard-ven-ynsee

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Dear Parent/Carer

Social Media Awareness

We are writing to inform you of a matter that has recently come to our attention regarding a Year 7 WhatsApp group, along with other informal school WhatsApp groups set up by our Year 7 students. We have addressed this concern with the year group. All Year 7 students have been instructed to delete school WhatsApp groups with immediate effect and to leave any such groups they may currently be part of.

To support students in understanding how to behave responsibly online and to enhance their social media awareness, we will be delivering regular assemblies throughout the year, as well as incorporating this topic into tutor time and the Personal General Education curriculum (PGE).

We should emphasise that Ramsey Grammar School does not support the creation of social media groups for students. WhatsApp has a legal minimum age restriction of 13 and is not regulated by the school or the Department of Education. Whilst we understand that students may be eager to connect with their peers, it is crucial that we prioritise their safety and well-being. To support this, we provide access to Microsoft Teams in school which is monitored and age appropriate.

We kindly request your assistance in addressing this matter. Please discuss the use of social media platforms and age restrictions with your child. We also ask that you ensure any school WhatsApp groups are removed and that you monitor your child's online activity.

Social media can be a valuable tool for communication; however, it also comes with risks, particularly for adolescents. Cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content and other online dangers are very real concerns. We urge you to stay involved in your child's online life, helping to ensure safety and providing appropriate guidance.

As a school, with your support, we are committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in our care and to helping them make responsible choices in their online use.

We also encourage all parents and carers to sign up to the Safer Schools App, which provides valuable guidance and resources to support online safety. You can register at <https://portal.safer-schools-isle-of-man.co.uk/?ssr=3> using the parent code: 5651.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Johnson and Mrs Bullock
Head and Deputy Head of Year