



The Priory School

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Dear parents and carers,

It has been brought to our attention that there are at least 3 accounts circulating on TikTok created by some Priory School students. The content of the posts hinge on a game of Guess Who and seems to have been copied from other posts nationally. Rather than this being an innocent game, the content of some of them is incredibly hurtful and constitutes online bullying. As well as students who have created this, a large number of students are following these accounts and encouraging the comments. The impact on individuals who are the focus of this activity cannot be underestimated.

I have sent a strong message to the student body around this, outlining that this not only breaks our behaviour policy (the accounts use the school's name and logo and are therefore bringing the school into disrepute) but goes against everything we expect about how you treat other people. We had a whole school focus on responsible use of the internet and social media last term, it feeds into our taught PSE programme with each year group receiving 3 or 4 taught units per year around these themes, as well as being discussed in weekly assemblies and daily tutor activities. We will continue to work hard at instilling the message that if they need to use social media, in their own time, then they must approach this in a responsible way.

We are currently doing what we can to investigate these accounts and will sanction if appropriate. Students have been very forthcoming since my message in helping us but the most effective way of combatting these accounts is parental monitoring of social media. I know you always support our messages at home, so continuing to do this would be gratefully appreciated. TikTok and other social media platforms are more likely to remove an account if it is reported by an individual or a family, doing this will help to remove some very damaging material; they will not always do this at a school's request.

If students do not feel comfortable approaching a member of staff and being named there is our anonymous 'worry box' in school which they can access. We have also repeated the message that if any student feels they have been affected by this they should speak to a trusted adult at home or at school; we will do all that we can to support them.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Pope
Headteacher