



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

AJP/JHS

12 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Social Media Awareness

Many of our Year 8 students are making use of smart phones as part of their everyday lives and with this comes many hours spent on a variety of social media apps. As parents will know, use of social media is one of the biggest factors contributing to the epidemic in mental health problems in young people. Unsupervised use of social media can literally destroy lives. It certainly has the potential to make children very unhappy and lonely. If you choose to allow your child to have access to a smart phone and choose to allow them to download social media apps, it is really important that you take responsibility for monitoring whether it is being used properly – schools cannot do this for you.

In recent weeks there have been some incidents amongst our Year 8 community linked with the use of social media, which have caused significant upset, whereby inappropriate conversations and content have been shared. It is important for students to recognise the importance of online safety and demonstrating kindness towards one another to avoid repetition of the events we have been dealing with. One way in which this can be managed, is through the use of parental controls on your child/ren's devices.

Excellent advice on setting up online parental controls can be found [here](#). Additionally, the following apps can help you monitor your child's devices and social media:

<https://families.google/familylink/>

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

It may also be interesting for you to note the following age restrictions on major social media apps:



Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

As you will be aware, The Mountbatten School has recently launched the use of the app 'Tootoot' which we strongly encourage all of our students to download to their devices. It is an app where they can reach out to members of our Pastoral Team with any matters they are concerned about and will receive a response within 24 hours. Many of our Year 8s have made good use of Toot Toot so far and we hope this will continue moving forwards, should there be anything they feel we should be aware of.

With the holidays fast approaching it is likely students will be spending more time on their devices whilst they are at home and therefore, we feel this would be a good time to reflect on their use of social media and identify positive changes that could ensure both their safety and well-being.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and thank you for your support this term.

Yours sincerely

Miss A Jupp
Head of Year 8

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