



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning
Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

Dear Parent /Guardian,

As you will be aware, students at Bedford do not have access to social network sites, such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat at school. Our school network is tightly controlled to prevent inappropriate access to internet based social network sites. You will also be aware that students in all years are not allowed mobile phones during learning time, further restricting access to the internet and of course texting.

I am, however, becoming increasingly concerned about the inappropriate use of such social network sites at home. Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat are designed for older age groups; they are not suitable for younger children or young people not yet able to use them sensibly. Whilst I recognise the benefits of such sites for adults, when used appropriately, I hope you will understand and support my concerns for our students.

When used inappropriately social network sites cause great harm. In their extreme form, contact with strangers can be made and this poses inevitable dangers. Please ensure you monitor your child's use of networking sites and report any concerns directly to the police. Please remind your child that adding unknown people to accounts places them at risk.

In their less extreme form, but none-the-less highly damaging, arguments / disagreements started in, or out of, school can be carried on in the evenings amongst a wider social group (and often across schools). Such arguments / disagreements are often part of the normal growing up process. However, without adult guidance (from the school, parents, etc.) these arguments / disagreements, when carried out on social network sites, become exacerbated. Students may often lack the maturity, and / or skills, to avoid saying something which they will regret or is inappropriate and hurtful to others. We need your support to stop your child using these sites until such times as your child is old enough to use them sensibly. Over use of these sites can also interfere with focused and thorough school work.

Additionally it has come to my attention that many of the younger members of our school community have created Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat accounts. All of these site require users to be **at least 13 years old** before they can create an account. To do so, an individual is required to provide, name, email and date of birth. It therefore follows that those under 13 years have knowingly provided incorrect information and information that leaves them vulnerable. We request that accounts belonging to under 13 year olds are removed.

If you wish to remove an account belonging to your child, complete the form at:-

Snapchat: <https://parentinfo.org/article/snapchat-what-to-do-if-you-re-worried>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/help/157793540954833/?ref=u2u>

Instagram: <https://help.instagram.com/contact/723586364339719>

If you wish to report abuse, or find out more about what Facebook deems 'abuse':

https://www.facebook.com/help/1753719584844061?helpref=page_content

As these sites cannot be used / accessed at school it is most appropriate that these forms are submitted by the parents or guardians of the child. Whilst as a school, we can and do, highlight and report the inappropriate use of such sites this is first and foremost a parental responsibility.

We very much hope that you will continue to work with us to ensure that you child's use of the internet is appropriate and sensible. Bedford High School, Manchester Road, Leigh, WN7 2LU. Tel: 01942 486 386 Fax: 01942 760 034
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