23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Important Update Regarding Online Safety and Student Conduct

I am writing to you today to address a highly concerning matter regarding online safety and digital conduct within our school community.

Recently, we have had to make the difficult decision to permanently exclude a student from Marshland High School. This serious action was taken as a direct result of the student engaging in malicious communications and the creation of deepfake videos. We take safeguarding and the wellbeing of our students incredibly seriously, and behaviour of this nature is completely unacceptable. It causes significant distress and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

At Marshland High School, we actively promote the safe and respectful use of technology. In line with Government guidance, we enforce a strict phone-free environment during the school day to protect our students and ensure they can focus on their learning without digital distractions or pressures. However, the vast majority of online interactions take place outside of school hours, which is why we must work together.

We are asking all parents and carers to take proactive responsibility for the safe use of mobile phones and devices at home. We strongly advise that you regularly check your child's messages and monitor their activity on messaging platforms and social media, particularly WhatsApp and Snapchat.

As a vital reminder, the minimum age requirement for almost all social media platforms is 13 years old. Students under the age of 13 are not permitted to use these platforms, and we urge you to enforce this rule at home to protect them from content and interactions they are not yet emotionally equipped to handle.

With the half-term break, we ask that you use this time to:

Review your child's devices: Look at the apps they have installed and the platforms they are using.

Monitor group chats: Check the WhatsApp and Snapchat groups they are part of, and actively remove them from any groups that are unmonitored, inappropriate, or where unkind behaviour is taking place.

Have an open discussion: Talk to your child about the safe, legal, and respectful use of technology, and the severe, real-world consequences of cyberbullying and sharing malicious content.

In addition to causing direct harm to others, please remember that digital content can affect the future in many ways, including for careers and education, used as part of police investigations, or for blackmail and extortion.

Keeping our young people safe in the digital world is a shared responsibility, and your vigilance at home is our strongest defence against online harm.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding, and partnership in ensuring Marshland High School remains a safe environment for our students.

Yours faithfully, James Crawley, Deputy Headteacher

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