

Principal: Richard Spencer



ELY COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Carer

Social Media

You will all be aware of the challenges that the internet and social media present in terms of keeping our children safe. We use the curriculum to regularly educate the students about the potential risks they face, and to give them strategies to help them stay safe. In common with all schools in 2019, we also work regularly with students and families around incidents in which online behaviours and interactions affect the welfare and progress of children in school. You will find lots of useful information and guidance around online safety on our website under 'Safeguarding Students': <http://www.elycollege.com/safeguarding>

Over the last week we have been investigating a string of particularly unpleasant posts which bring the college name into disrepute, and are defamatory, hurtful and disrespectful towards both students and college staff. We are taking the matter very seriously, investigating it closely and working with students and families to try to identify those responsible and shut down the accounts in question. However, as a college we cannot police the internet and we need to call on your support as parents and carers. Please can we ask you to speak with your child about their use of social media, look closely at the sites and platforms they are using and, if you have any information, to please inform the college via your House office or child's senior tutor.

All information we have gathered so far: posts, imagery, screenshots etc., have been sent through to the relevant authorities. These include the Police and the INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION. We are working with Instagram (the main platform being used to spread these images) to remove these accounts and pass any data to the relevant authorities.

Thank you in advance for your help and support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Lee Mawby
Vice Principal