



## EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Mr K Ford

## HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr G Pendlebury

19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Subject: The Impact of Social Media on Students and Staff**

As we all navigate the digital age, social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok etc have become increasingly prevalent in the lives of students. While these platforms offer opportunities for creativity and connection, they also present challenges that affect our school community.

Recently, we have observed an increase in accounts that target and embarrass individuals within our school. We urge you to be vigilant and remind your children of the appropriate use of these platforms. It is crucial to have open and frank discussions about the potential consequences of misusing social media, experts say.

We know there is a great deal to understand, which is why I write to share with you a very useful platform found on this [link](#): it has a wealth of information for parents and carers. On your first visit, you must register for a free parent/carer account. Once registered, you can access courses, guides and videos.

### **Age Restrictions and Parental Involvement**

Please be reminded that many social media platforms, including TikTok, have age restrictions. We encourage all parents and carers to be curious and involved in their children's online activities. Regularly discussing online interactions, and setting boundaries, can significantly impact their digital well-being.

### **Cyber Security Training for Parents/Carers**

Also, we are pleased to share an opportunity with you that promises to enhance your understanding of online safety. The Thames Valley Cyber Protect team is hosting some engaging and informative Cyber Security training presentations. These sessions are designed to provide practical tips for managing your family's online behaviour and internet-enabled device usage.

### **Training Session Topics**

#### **1. Emails and Mobile Phones**

Learn the art of spotting scams, including phishing and other fraudulent activities, and share these tips with your children.

#### **2. Social Media Safety**

Understand the risks associated with social engineering, disinformation, AI, privacy, and hacked accounts.

### **3. Gaming**

Discover the potential risks young people face when gaming online and explore ways to monitor and restrict usage.

### **4. Password Mastery and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)**

Secure your accounts and teach your family to follow best practice in digital security.

To participate in the Cyber Security training sessions, please follow this [link](#) to register for the free sessions.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that Great Marlow School remains a safe and respectful environment for all. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

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Great Marlow School