



## Issues with social media

During the past few weeks, we have grown increasingly concerned by the impact a number of social media activities are having on the general behaviour of students in our school. We are now asking all parents and carers to help us to bring the issues under control before they impact more widely.

Before explaining the situation further, it is important to note that the number of students who are actively behaving inappropriately remains small but growing. The real issue is that there are increasing numbers of students who are actively engaged with the social media sites which fuel the behaviour issues. In other words, children are following and viewing many inappropriate videos and pranks which make it more attractive to other students to continue posting content.

For example, We have been made aware that there are two fake TikTok accounts pretending to be of HCCS origin. There are a number of videos on these accounts which manipulate images of our staff, either taken from the school website, social media or from images taken on mobile phones. Some of the content is highly inappropriate and offensive. With this in mind, we have contacted the Police, as well as TikTok and are actively pursuing all avenues to bring a halt to this activity.

In a separate but related social media craze, we have had an increase in vandalism in school with a focus on toilets. The craze is about carrying out increasingly outrageous acts of vandalism. This was brought to parents' attention in a recent newsletter. The current trend is to vandalise toilets and washroom facilities and has led to periods of time when our toilet capacity has been seriously depleted, leading to a completely unnecessary and unacceptable issue for us to have to manage as a school.

We are asking all parents to please check your child's phone to see if they are following or contributing to these sites. We are very concerned that your child may become involved by association rather than participation, and we will continue to involve the Police as and when appropriate. It is in all of our interests to keep our students and staff safe in school.



# Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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