



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyhton

27 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 7 have been transitioning into secondary school, here at Beths Grammar exceptionally well. However, some concerns have emerged in recent weeks regarding interaction over some social media platforms, including WhatsApp.

I am therefore writing to express my concerns regarding the use of WhatsApp within the Year cohort. Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that in recent weeks there have been a number of inappropriate remarks and unpleasant interactions online using this messaging platform. Not all of students have necessarily engaged in the negative conversations and unpleasant interaction, but many may have seen it. Could I therefore please request that you check your child's phone regularly, particularly any group chats for any such interaction.

Please note that the minimum age of use for WhatsApp in the UK is 16 years old, I have included a website link here that gives more information about the use of WhatsApp below:
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/>

The year group have been spoken to as a collective regarding the use of WhatsApp and have also had a general reminder surrounding phone use following an update in our Mobile Phone Policy. A link to our school policies be found here:
<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=13>

If you have any concerns, or indeed need to report any unpleasant interaction, please do not hesitate to me directly msmonteith@beths.bexley.sch.uk.

Thank you for the continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Monteith
Head of Year 7

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