



23rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Over the next few weeks we aim to raise awareness over the issues that can arise through the use of social media.

WhatsApp is an instant messaging service which allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other content. The minimum age to use WhatsApp is 16 years old, if your child is under this age we would encourage you to check they do not have a WhatsApp account. It has become apparent that students are being added to groups with people who are not in their contact list, year group or even the school. Individuals can decline an invite and block future invites. However, it is quite common to accept all invitations they receive with little consideration.

The number of WhatsApp groups students appear to be in is becoming overwhelming and whilst they can mute/turn off notifications on a chat, we find students like to know what is being said. We have had students share concerns over unpleasant behaviour, inappropriate language and images shared. Whilst we will offer support and guidance in school, much of this is happening outside of school therefore we would encourage you to have a conversation with your son/daughter regarding WhatsApp. If you are not happy with your son/daughter being on WhatsApp you can report an account for being underage through their website. For more information please visit www.whatsapp.com

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me through email (e.cawston@stclementshigh.org.uk) or by calling 01553 825919.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Cawston
KS3 Pastoral Officer