

22 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Serious Misuse of ICT**

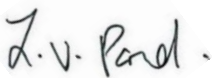
As a school, we are really pleased with how our students have engaged with our remote learning provision. Feedback from staff, students and parents/carers has been extremely positive. However, it is with regret that we are sending this letter to inform parents of the malicious behaviour of some of our students. Unfortunately, a student has breached our E-Safety policy and has assumed another student's identity whilst using Teams. Please rest assured that this is a single event and this student is part of our school community, however, we have taken this very seriously and sanctions have been applied today.

It has also come to our attention that a number of social media sites are being set up and our teaching staff are being targeted with derogatory and slanderous comments posted about them on these profiles. Both the school and Instagram are currently looking into this as defamation of character.

These serious matters are currently being investigated by the Trust ICT Team in the first instance as online activity leaves a digital footprint. This may be followed up by the police.

Please may I ask you, as a matter of urgency, to speak with your child about responsible use of ICT and social media as I am sure they do not fully understand how these events pose a risk and are considered malice. Please can you urge them to cease all contact with any of these profiles and remove themselves as a follower and to follow protocols when using Microsoft Teams. In order to protect our students and staff, despite being in lockdown, we will continue to evoke the school's discipline policy. Any students found to be involved in the misuse of ICT will be at risk of a permanent exclusion.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond  
Headteacher