



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Headteacher: Mr A Wood BA (Oxon), PGCE, MBA, NPQH  
Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL T: 01707 275331

Email: [admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk) Website: [www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents / Carers

Over the last couple of weeks we have become aware of some worrying activity on social media that we again need to make our parents/carers aware of.

The use of TikTok and uploading videos is incredibly popular amongst our pupils and is more often than not used enjoyably and sensibly.

However, we have picked up on certain situations and incidents where this is clearly not the case.

Some of our pupils have filmed themselves and then uploaded videos clearly indicating which school they belong to via the BHGS logo on their jumpers / cardigans. We would urge parents/carers to speak to their children regarding the safe use of this platform.

In addition to the above we have also been made aware of the proliferation of fake accounts being created on TikTok and Instagram in particular, quite often used to 'bait' other pupils and containing unpleasant images and comments about other pupils in and outside the school. While these remain anonymous as to who has created the account it naturally causes upset, stress and anxiety for those who have been included in such accounts and postings. This also then leads to accusations being made between pupils in school as to who may have created the account and why.

This again distracts the pupils from the core purpose of coming to school and leads to additional work for our staff having to pacify angry pupils trying to ascertain guilty parties, if any.

While we have little control over these accounts we hope you will take the opportunity to discuss these matters with your child. We would recommend asking your child to show you their accounts from time to time to give you reassurance that they are not viewing anything harmful. You can of course report abusive or malicious comments directly to the social media platforms on their websites - a simple reminder to your child of 'stop, block, report'. Even if your child is not directly involved in the conversation this does not stop them reporting and we would positively encourage this from our pupils.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Dudley

**Deputy Headteacher**

***"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016***

