



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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11th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to bring to your attention some concerns relating to social media, specifically the platform TikTok. In recent months there have been a number of trends among teenagers that stem from TikTok challenges. These vary from how to generate a false positive lateral flow test result to sharing photos of items that have been stolen. Thankfully we have no evidence to indicate that King Edward Students have taken part in these previous trends. Please read the content below carefully and discuss it with your child. I would also urge you to take time to regularly monitor your child's phone, internet devices and any social media accounts that they may have.

Unfortunately we have been made aware of a very small number of King Edward VI students who have taken part in the current 'challenge' circulating on TikTok which encourages school students to make dummy accounts and post modified pictures and videos of school staff. Some examples of these from other Birmingham and Staffordshire schools are particularly unpleasant.

We ask that parents/carers ensure their children know the seriousness of engaging with any such account (this includes liking or commenting on posts) and ask for parent/carer support in reporting any such account brought to their attention. We will take seriously any incidents of social media being used to insult, impersonate or exploit any member of school staff. Thank you for working with us to ensure that children behave in a way that is safe, respectful, responsible and lawful. We will also be speaking to children about this in school.

The following link provides some further information regarding TikTok.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-know-about-video-production-app>

Yours Sincerely

Mrs L Hurn
Deputy Headteacher