

14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have been informed by our Police Liaison Officer that instances of targeted grooming of pupils via Social Media have taken place in some Denbighshire High Schools. To my knowledge, no pupils within Denbigh High have been the target of such grooming but there is clearly a need for us as a school, and for you as parents, to be extra vigilant at this time and to warn pupils of the dangers of social media.

The instances that have been investigated by the police involved adults posing as teenagers on Snapchat or Instagram, encouraging the young person they strike up an online friendship with to send them indecent photographs of themselves. Once the photographs have been shared with the groomer, the sender is then blackmailed with the threat of releasing the photographs across social media sites unless they send further photographs of themselves or their friends. This can result in the young person being blackmailed, feeling totally isolated, ashamed and fearful of disclosing the threat to anybody.

It is vitally important that none of our pupils are exposed to such a threat and I am requesting your support in talking to your child about the dangers of exchanging with unknown individuals on Snapchat and Instagram. The close monitoring of your child's social media is also recommended by the authorities.

To help you in this process I am providing the links to several valuable guides provided by Childline and the NSPCC.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>

If you have any concerns regarding this matter then please do not hesitate to contact the school or North Wales Police.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. R. P. Evans  
Headteacher