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Our Ref./Ein Cyf. M:
Your Ref./Eich Cyf. CG/LP

Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

Date:/ Dyddiad: 16^h November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Misuse of Social Media

I am writing to inform you of serious incidents which have occurred over the course of the last few days, involving the misuse of social media. Social media accounts have been set-up on platforms such as TikTok, which are designed to look like official school accounts. The posts include inappropriate videos, which contain photographs, clips and names of teaching and other school staff. The content is offensive, abusive, discriminatory and defamatory in its nature.

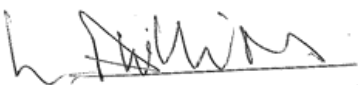
Not only have these posts affected staff wellbeing and school operations, but they also have legal implications, which in some instances has resulted in the need for engagement of Gwent Police. As such, each individual incident across the school estate is being investigated. Should the accounts and/or perpetrator(s) of this offensive and inappropriate content be found to be a pupil/pupils, these individuals will be subject to the school's disciplinary policy. In addition, where appropriate and in cases whereby the incident has been reported or is reportable to the police, additional action is likely to be taken against the perpetrator(s).

The Council and its schools are taking these incidents very seriously, and will be continuing to monitor the situation, taking appropriate action to identify the perpetrators and secure removal of the offensive content.

Please could I take this opportunity to urge parents and carers to speak to their child/children, check their devices and to remind them of the dangers associated with, and the seriousness of the misuse of social media. Activities such as the incidents detailed above can lead to very serious consequences for the identified perpetrator(s). Pupils should also be reminded that they are not permitted to film on school premises without prior permission to do so, taking account of relevant policies.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. Our primary focus is to ensure pupil and staff safety and wellbeing, with a particular focus in this instance, on online safety and associated activity.

Your sincerely,



Lynn Phillips
Corporate Director of Education
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.