

14/10/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to ask for your support in terms of our internet protocols and our managing of mobile devices. When your son started, you would have received a letter from school concerning internet access and your son will have signed the RGS acceptable use of IT systems. It is vitally important that we in boarding and you as parents and guardians set and convey the standards to students about using the internet safely.

We believe that it would be prudent to be aware of your son's internet use and to give firm guidance on access to certain sites and to be aware of the extent of your son's internet use. In boarding we endeavour to monitor personal use and set guidelines, hence Year 7-11 boarders handing in their devices. We should all be aware of the fact that students will use the internet for personal and social interaction as well as gaming. It is absolutely imperative that students who use social media understand that posting inappropriate messages either on their own social media pages or on someone else's page/profile would be a serious breach of both school and the boarding policy. Students also need to understand that recording other students using an iPad, phone or equivalent device and posting this on the internet would be a serious breach of school and boarding house rules. We regularly remind students of the points above but would appreciate your support in this matter at home.

We would openly encourage students to utilise the schools filtered WiFi as it offers a level of protection not only in terms of anti-virus or hacking of personal information but also blocks certain websites and searches. Currently, our biggest challenge lies in the students using virtual private networks (VPNs) or their own 4G/5G to get around the filtered WiFi settings. Please, can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the use of VPNs within boarding and school is strictly forbidden. The use of a VPN bypasses the safety the school has in place to protect your son from harmful content as well as the infrastructure of the schools network and their devices. If we find students using VPNs we will confiscate devices but this is something we are keen to avoid. Education is the key to using the internet safely and it is prudent to regularly check with your son about his internet use and the sites he is visiting.

We will also check with students on the sites that they are accessing but obviously what they download at home and using their own data does depend on the setting and filters that you have installed. Please be aware that within Fraser Youens we expect the boarders to only be watching or gaming that is age appropriate. If you are allowing your son to use your Netflix or any other account the content needs to be set at age appropriate levels.

If someone does download material that is inappropriate and brings this into boarding then we would treat this in the same manner that the school would.

We have discussed all of the above with the boarders in year group meetings and as a whole house. I have attached our Fraser Youens Guidance on Mobile devices and have posted this guidance on their Teams pages and in their common rooms.

Thank you very much for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Scourfield', with a small flourish at the end.

Jon Scourfield
Director of Boarding/Assistant Head