



Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: Bullying on Social Media

I am writing to inform you that we are extremely concerned by the emergence of several Instagram accounts that were created anonymously, with some using the JTC logo.

The intention of the accounts was to provide an avenue for students to share information about each other. The comments that I have witnessed were mostly cruel and intended to harm the reputation of others.

Use of social media is a reality of the world we live in, however many teenagers do not have the social maturity to manage it responsibly.

Through investigation we were able to determine who was responsible for the creation of these accounts and those students involved have received a serious consequence and are deeply regretful of their actions. The accounts have been removed. We are aware of other accounts that appear to be older and now unused and we are working with Instagram to have them removed.

We are also concerned that over 100 students were following these accounts, mostly from Year 8. Today, I met with the Year 8 group and expressed my concern about how they readily participated in following these accounts. By following, they were showing their approval of what was occurring and this translates as bystander bullying. The students have been told that they are to now move on from this incident and seek assistance through Student Services if they need further support.

We have programs in place to educate students about social media use and how to manage it responsibly. Unfortunately, students in this instance have not taken heed of the messages being delivered.

We are seeking your assistance in managing this issue so that no further students are harmed by the creation of social media accounts that promote this kind of behaviour. We encourage you to discuss this issue with your children and ask that you be aware of what your children are doing on social media. It is extremely important that teenagers have adults to guide them in how to behave responsibly through this medium. For further guidance, the following website contains excellent advice for parents and I strongly urge you to spend some time reading its content:

<https://esafety.gov.au/>

We will also be investigating bringing in a guest speaker to deliver to parents on how to support their children on social media.

I would like to thank those parents who reported the accounts and provided assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Savins
Principal

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