

8 February 2019

Dear The World,

Representing the students of Headlands School, the Student Council feels compelled to write to you in respect of social media.

- As students of Headlands School we are **proud** to be part of our school community. As young people we try to use social media positively and are reminded on a regular basis of how to stay safe online by our teachers.
- As students of Headlands School we want to make a positive contribution to our local community and the world beyond. We **aspire** to be the difference and leave Headlands School as well-rounded individuals, able to connect with friends using social media in order to enhance the economy in which we live.
- As students of Headlands School we try to **respect** one another in all we do. We try really hard to use social media responsibly and within the parameters of the law. We know it is unkind to write or say anything on social media that someone else could find offensive or upsetting.

So why do so many individuals, many of which are adults – the ones who are supposed to be our positive role models - take to social media to say unkind and untrue things about:

- Our School?
- Our staff?
- & indeed us the students?

We can only assume that these individuals do not have the emotional, social or legal awareness to understand how unkind words, statements and accusations can impact on us all. For example, for every minute the staff of our school spend resolving issues on social media is time taken away from their teaching and our learning. Why would you want this? This doesn't seem right or fair.

In particular, for those individuals who live within our local community who use social media inappropriately and who continue to spread false information about our school we want you to know that we, the students of Headlands School, do not approve.

We are **proud** to say we are students of Headlands School. We don't just want to be able to say this today, but for a long time to come. We want to be able to talk to our friends, family, community, Universities and future employers about the **amazing** school we went to. Why would you seek to take this away from us? Why would you want us to feel bad about the school we have chosen to attend? Why would you want our staff to spend hours of their personal time worrying about what others have said about them on-line instead of marking our work and planning our lessons? Or perhaps spending quality time with their families? School staff have families too who also need them, but this doesn't seem to bother you.

We actually feel sorry for you. Your world must be so consumed with negative thoughts and jealousy for what we have achieved here at Headlands school.

If you have any problems that need to be communicated then please do it in the right way. You can talk to any member of staff who will do their utmost to resolve the issue. Posting your personal grievances on social media will only serve to escalate your disagreement.

So, from the Student Council of Headlands School, before you post something negative or potentially criminal on social media about our school, our staff, or us the students, please stop and think. Help lead us, the next generation and consider how your words and actions could have an encouraging effect on Headlands School and us, the students. Stay safe and be responsible on social media.

#TeamHeadlands2019