



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Head Teacher **Richard McGowan**
Lesmahagow High School

Our ref:
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Mr G Parry
Phone: 01555 896010
Date: 07 March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Pupil Support and Senior Management Team. The theme of this week's year-group assemblies has been social media and the negative impact online interaction is having on relationships between pupils and the ethos within the school.

Staff are spending lots of time dealing with young people falling out and making inappropriate and offensive comments towards one another online. This is often done as part of a group chat – which leads to others getting involved and taking sides. It is too easy for young people to post a comment or image online and then regret what has been said. Unfortunately, when this happens, it is often impossible to take the post back.

These issues are taking place outside of school which makes it difficult for staff to deal with. However, it is impacting on relationships within school as young people feel encouraged by others to confront or fall out with their peers. It can lead to physical or verbal confrontations and students feeling bullied or isolated. We are all concerned about the impact this has on school ethos and the mental health of our pupils.

Please talk to your children about their use of social media, discourage them from being part of large group chats, where comments can easily be misunderstood or taken the wrong way, and encourage them to talk openly to their friends or Pupil Support teacher when an issue arises. Importantly, we would ask that you be aware that mobile phone contracts are often in a parent's name and therefore the parent is ultimately responsible for any content posted on these devices often without their knowledge.

If you would like more information, there are good websites available; simply search for **Parents Guide to Online Safety**. We will also be offering information on the school website. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Graham Parry
Depute Headteacher,
Lesmahagow High School

Lesmahagow High School, Strathaven Road, Lesmahagow, ML11 0FS
Phone: 01555 896010 Fax: 01555 896011
Email: office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



**Healthy
Working
Lives**