Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to January’s Safeguarding letter

Over recent months the media have reported on growing concern regarding social-media influencers, in particular when it comes to their potential impact on boys and young men.

You may already be aware of one such individual, Andrew Tate, who describes himself as “absolutely a misogynist’.

Many of our students know of Tate and given the nature of his views he does not represent a positive role model for boys or young men of any age which goes against the significant work done around developing our young learners to have mutual respect for each other.

His content and posts have been removed and banned from many social media platforms, however, the banned material is potentially still accessible by young people with a TikTok account or via an internet search.

It is important to note that children and young people are still growing in their emotional, physical, and mental maturity. If they are engaging with content that promotes harmful behaviours, such as misogyny, it does not mean they fully understand or agree with what is being said, even if they claim that they do but may go on to display these type of behaviours believing them to be acceptable because someone ‘famous’ says that its acceptable.

Our staff are vigilant and will share and respond to concerns they have about students who we believe are potentially being influenced by inappropriate and offensive views. At a time when people use social media for spreading provocative and inflammatory untruths, it is more important than ever that home and school work in partnership to challenge this and other forms of hate speech.

Should you have any concerns about how best to support your child to navigate their way through the world of social media, please do not hesitate to contact me [deputy@westlancs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@westlancs.lancs.sch.uk) or your child’s class teacher or trusted adult.

Kind Regards

Andrew Grant -DSL

**Andrew Tate.**