



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL
Aspiring & Achieving Together

May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Social Media and GCSE Examinations – Important Guidance from JCQ and the Exam Boards

As students continue with their GCSE examinations, I am writing to share some important guidance recently issued by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and the examination boards regarding the use of social media during the exam season. Please find attached a copy of the official JCQ guidance for candidates, which we would encourage you to read through with your child.

We recognise that this can be a demanding and sometimes stressful time for students and families alike, and we want to do everything we can to support our young people in approaching their exams with confidence. Social media plays a significant role in many students' daily lives and can often provide a positive space for sharing revision ideas, asking questions and supporting one another through the examination period. However, there are also important rules that students must follow to ensure that they do not unintentionally breach exam regulations.

Students are reminded that they must not:

- Buy, request or share exam materials online
- Spread rumours or unverified information about exam content
- Share coursework or assessment materials on social media
- Work collaboratively in ways that compromise the independence of assessed work

If students encounter exam content online, or if anyone approaches them claiming to sell examination papers or answers, they should report this to a member of staff immediately. Unfortunately, this is something exam boards deal with every year, and reporting concerns helps to protect all students. Students will not be penalised for raising concerns or reporting material they have seen online.

It is also important that students and families understand the seriousness of breaching examination regulations. Depending on the circumstances, exam boards may issue warnings, remove marks, disqualify students from specific papers or qualifications, or in the most serious cases prevent candidates from entering future examinations for a period of time. While such cases are uncommon, even a poor decision made online can have significant consequences.

We would be grateful if you could:

1. Read through the attached infographic with your child.
2. Discuss appropriate use of social media during the examination period, including group chats and platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and WhatsApp.
3. Encourage your child to speak to a teacher or member of staff if they are unsure about anything they have seen or shared online.

The full JCQ guidance for candidates can be found on the [JCQ website](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Exams Office or your child's Director of Standards.



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Thank you for your continued support during the examination period. We are extremely proud of the commitment and resilience shown by our students and wish them every success in their exams.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Gee
Deputy Headteacher



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Information for candidates Using social media and examinations/assessments

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers



Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- ! Receive a written warning
- ! Lose marks
- ! Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- ! Be banned from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
jqc.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents