



Headteacher: Mr Paul Beale, BSc (Hons), NPQH, PGCE

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

The internet is now part of everyday life. As a father of two younger children I often wonder how we can keep them safe and help them to use it as a positive tool while avoiding its more troubling aspects.

Our pupils are remarkable young people and many are far more confident with technology than I will ever be. They learn new skills quickly and often find creative ways to use the tools available to them. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence has placed even more powerful resources in their hands and the possibilities are now immense.

At the moment a video of me dancing is circulating online. It is a silly but harmless clip, and it is entirely false. It was created through deep fake software that uses artificial intelligence to change images or videos of people so that they appear to say or do things that never happened. Although this example is lighthearted, I am sure you can appreciate that this technology can be used in ways that cause serious concern.

Old Buckenham High School is a school where mobile phones are not permitted during the school day. Pupils should not use them while on site and they should remain switched off in bags. The school does however have the right to check phones for inappropriate media when concerns have been raised.

If any images of staff are found on a pupil phone whether original or altered this will result in an appropriate sanction. It is not acceptable to say that an image was simply sent to them. Pupils should report such material and delete it. Our pupils are, by nature, kind and responsible. We regularly talk with them about our values of community, ambition and respect and we know that almost all of the time they make sensible choices.

I would still ask that you speak with your children, look through their phones and remind them that keeping images of staff or other pupils without permission can be hurtful and can quickly lead to more serious problems. When checking phones it may help to talk to your children about the different places where images and media can be stored. These include the main photo and video galleries but also areas that are less obvious such as custom stickers in social media apps, saved images within messaging apps and media folders that sit inside individual platforms. It is important that pupils understand that these places all count as stored content and that they remain responsible for what they keep on their devices.

The video of me has been reported and I am grateful to the families who alerted me. As is often the case, such material can be shared in seconds but is extremely difficult to remove. All of us at OBHS care deeply for our pupils and we work together to help them meet their potential and grow into confident and considerate young people. It is also important to recognise that staff should be able to come to school without any fear that their image might be used in a way that is unkind, disrespectful or

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intended to cause upset. For that reason, I will treat any unauthorised media of staff as a serious breach of school rules and values.

Thank you for your continued support.

Paul Beale
Headteacher

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