RESILIENCE · RESPECT · INTEGRITY · COMMUNITY
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Headteacher: Mr. J. Sands
Deputy Headteacher: Ms. R. Gilbert

24th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Over the next two Personal Development lessons, we will be providing KS3 students with the opportunity to watch a two-part episode called 'Swiped' which is the latest documentary around the use of smart phones. This experiment was conducted at The Stanway School, Colchester, Essex which was aired on Channel 4 last month.

Emma and Matt Willis challenge a group of Year 8 pupils at The Stanway School in Colchester to give up their smartphones completely for 21 days, investigating the results around limited screen time. As a school, we are not promoting that students give up their mobile phone devices but feel that they need to be fully aware in how they can keep themselves safe online, and the impact this can have on their own mental well-being.

As a school we appreciate that in parts of the documentary some sections can be hard hitting as there are discussions around suicide, but we feel it is important for students to understand the impact this can have.

Should you be interested in watching this two-part documentary, please see the link below.

https://www.channel4.com/programmes/swiped-the-school-that-banned-smartphones

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself and Mr Sweeny (Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Kind Regards,

Mr Hudgell

(Head of House – Osprey & Raven)