

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

**RE: Vandalism of Academy Property – New TikTok Craze**

It has come to my attention that a new craze is emerging on TikTok that involves using the loops from a disposable face mask to saw down through plastic chairs.

In the last 24hours we have identified a very small number of students that have deliberately vandalised academy chairs in this way.

Whilst I can accept that accidental damage does sometimes occur, in this regard I can only conclude that damage is the result of a deliberate act – a choice by a student to behave in this way. Where damage is caused, we will contact parents/carers and expect that the cost of a replacement chair is made.

I do recognise that I am talking about the behaviour of a very small number of students, but this letter is for absolute transparency to everyone in our community. It's also a thank you in advance for your support as we work to minimise the impact this latest craze could have.

TikTok contains some very positive and innocent content but it also has been used to share dangerous challenges, advocate sexualised behaviour and glorify drug use.

Please could I ask that all our Parent/Carers discuss the risks of exposure to inappropriate content with their child and ensure their privacy settings are sufficiently in place.

TikTok's age limit is 13 years old. This includes features to report videos for review and a choice of privacy settings.

Should your child require any support regarding online safety, please do refer to the safeguarding team – they are very happy to provide advice and guidance.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas  
Principal

**Oak Academy**

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