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Dear Parent/Carer,

Over recent months the media have reported on growing concern regarding social-media influencers, not solely but 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".

We are currently not aware of any students who are familiar with Tate in our school, it has been reported that mainstream schools across the UK have seen a rise in misogynistic opinions being shared openly in classrooms by boys as young as ten, and in some cases female teachers have been targeted.

Whilst some of Tate's posts appear to focus on wellbeing and mental health, they are interspersed with deeply misogynistic, sexist, homophobic, and violent material including:

- Saying that rape victims put themselves "in a position to be raped" and "must bear some responsibility", claiming most do this for advancement in 'opportunity'.
- Claiming mental illness makes people 'weak' and that depression 'isn't real'.
- Promoting gendered violence and misogyny on his podcast and posts about relationships
- Saying "I'm a realist and when you're a realist you're sexist. There's no way you can be rooted in reality and not be sexist."
- Saying that there is no such thing as an independent female and that women belong to men.

Given the nature of his views, he does not represent a positive role model for boys or young men of any age and yet many still have questions about Tate's messages and his values. His content and posts have been removed and banned from many social media platforms, following a successful campaign by UK-based advocacy group Hope Not Hate. However, the banned material is potentially still accessible by young people with a TikTok account or via an internet search.

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. In addition, all students receive Relationships & Sex Education as part of our planned curriculum which addresses issues such as misogyny and gender stereotypes. We also promote diversity, inclusivity, mutual respect and tolerance through themes presented in our assembly and pastoral programme.

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 they do. At a time when so many people think it acceptable to 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 myself j.ferguson@percychedly.org.uk, Maria (ESafety Lead) m.mawdesley@percychedley.org.uk or your class team.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Ferguson
Personal Development Lead