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learners who aspire for themselves and inspire others

10 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

ANDREW TATE

You will be aware from recent media coverage that there have been concerns raised 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”. There have been a number of recent stories which have related to his recent arrest and detainment in Romania on suspicion of human trafficking, rape and forming an organised crime group. It has become evident that many young men and boys have not been put off following Tate or being influenced by his negative messages. We are aware that some learners are aware of Tate and the opinions he shares online. We have had instances of students using hand gestures associated with Andrew Tate towards female members of staff.

Whilst some of Tate’s posts appear to focus on wellbeing and mental health, they are combined 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.

It is clear that the content of Tate’s posts are directly in conflict with the messages and values we, at Calthorpe Park School, believe should be shared with our community, especially with our male learners. We believe he portrays a negative role model for young men and boys and has shared very troubling stereotypes about women, those struggling with mental health and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We also recognise that many learners still have questions regarding Tate’s values and social media content.

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.

Tate’s social media content has been banned from many social media platforms but there is still a possibility that learners will come across these as they use the internet. We would also urge you to take the time to regularly monitor internet activity at home, as well as have open and honest discussions on this and other related topics.



Hampshire
County Council

This is an important safeguarding exercise that I know all parents and carers will take seriously and, as a school, 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 tutor programme, and this forms an integral part of our ethos, The Calthorpe Way.

If you would like to talk to your child about this issue the online education support service, Bold Voices, have produced an [informative and helpful guide](#) for parents to help them talk to their children about Tate and the issues his posts raise.

If you are concerned about this or have any other worries relating to your child, please contact their tutor. A reminder that if a learner has a concern about themselves or a peer, they can also talk with our HQ team or any member of staff at Calthorpe Park School.

Yours sincerely

Mr L. Jones
Champion for Equality & Inclusion / Head of MFL

