

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

03 February 2023

Dear Parents

I am sure 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 relating 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. At Woodhouse Grove we are cognisant that some students are aware of Tate and the opinions he shares online and that they are beginning to exhibit behaviour that would suggest they support his misogynistic and profoundly anti-social beliefs.

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.

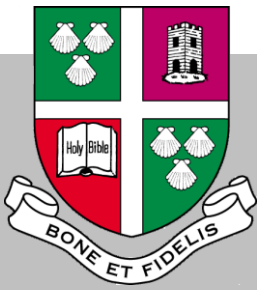
It is clear that the content of Tate's posts is directly in conflict with the messages and values we hold at Woodhouse Grove School and are in total discord with the School's overarching ethos. Whilst recognising that some students have legitimate questions regarding Tate's values and social media content, it is my firm view that Andrew Tate 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.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR
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I am Grovian.



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
Registered Office: 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH.
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Tate's social media content has been banned from many social media platforms but there is still a possibility that young people will come across these as they use the internet. This being the case, the School strongly urges all parents to take the time to regularly monitor internet activity at home, as well as having open and honest discussions on this and other related topics. This is an important Safeguarding exercise that I know all parents will take seriously.

As you would expect, primarily through assemblies and PSHEE lessons, the School will continue to further educate our students about the dangers of Tate's messages as part of our programme of study that looks at equality, diversity, consent and healthy relationships.

In the meantime, I must caution all parents that the School will be adopting a **zero-tolerance** approach to students publicly expressing views or outward displays of support [including hand gestures] for Andrew Tate's propaganda. Any students behaving in a manner that the School deems to be in total discord with our welcoming, tolerant and compassionate ethos can expect to be sent home.

If you are concerned about this or have any other worries relating to your child, please contact their Head of Year. A reminder that if a student has a concern about themselves or a peer, they can also talk confidentially with any member of the School's Safeguarding Team. For further details please follow this link: [WGS Safeguarding Contacts](#)

Thank you in advance for your support over this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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