

2 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Important information regarding social media trend – ‘School Wars/Red vs Blue’

I am writing to make you aware of this concerning social media trend.

‘School Wars’ or ‘Red vs Blue’ is a national TikTok trend in which schools within a local area are assigned either a red or blue group and young people are encouraged to prank or fight those in the opposing group. Of particular concern is that some online posts promote violence, and in certain cases, reference the use of weapons.

Over the weekend we were made aware of a social media image naming local secondary schools, dividing them into a red group and a blue group. River Academy was not named, but many of our students will have seen this online.

Thames Valley Police School Liaison Officers have contacted each of the named schools to discuss the matter and gather further information. The Police Force’s Digital Media Team has also been actively searching and monitoring online platforms for information that may help identify any potential risks or planned incidents.

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no community incidents relating to School Wars and at the time of writing, there is no specific information regarding dates, times, or individuals involved. The only confirmed concern is that a small number of individuals appear to be promoting violence online.

I want to reassure you that we are taking this matter seriously and the safety and wellbeing of our students remain our highest priority.

We ask that you:

- Speak with your child about this trend and reinforce that involvement in any form of violence, threatening behaviour, or disruptive activity is unacceptable.
- Remind them about responsible use of social media; TikTok requires users to be at least 13 years old to create an account.



· Encourage your children to report any concerning messages, posts, or plans to a trusted adult or directly to the school.

If we receive any further verified information that affects the safety of our school community, we will communicate with you promptly.

If you have any concerns or information, you believe may be relevant, please do not hesitate to contact the school or call the police on 101 (or 999 if there is a crime in progress or if there is an immediate threat).

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our community safe.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Hartley

Headteacher

