**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to all of our new year 7 students as they settle into life at Secondary School. They are already looking forward to their ‘Freshers’ Disco’ and ‘A Night at the Museum’ and will have many more great experiences too.

Welcome back also to our more seasoned students; we are looking forward to another good year together.

As we start the new term there are some important reminders and information that I need to share with you:

School Phone System

We have upgraded our telephone system which has necessitated us changing our number to **01942 909009**. Please make a note of this new number and use it for all telephone calls to the school.

Please also note that for training, monitoring and safeguarding purposes **calls will be recorded**.

Mobile Phones

On the subject of phones, our stance on mobile phones has not changed and they must not be seen or heard on the school premises.

Our reasons for this are well documented and I am firmly of the belief that addiction to smart phones and social media is one of the main contributors to children not reaching their potential in exams. It stops them doing their homework and breaks their concentration when they constantly receive notifications. Ironically, the people running these tech companies won’t let their own children use the addictive apps and sites, because they know the damage they are doing.

Students having a break from their smart phones and persistent interruptions during the school day is a good thing and I am grateful to parents for supporting us with this.

We know that some parents have given ‘permission’ to their child to use their mobile phone to ring home if they feel worried about something in school. Whilst this has been done with the very best intentions it doesn’t help matters and often causes great anxiety at home. We ask that, in the first instance, you advise your child to speak to their Pastoral Guidance Officer who will usually be able to resolve matters. If your child still wishes to speak to you we will, of course, arrange for them to do that and you will at the same time be able to speak to a member of staff who will be able to give you further information.

It is also important to note that the legal age limit for use of social media is 13 years.

Frog VLE

Frog is accessible via our school website by clicking on the blue Frog icon. Alternatively you can download the ‘MyFrog’ App. We very much value parents who check Frog regularly so that they can keep in touch with their child’s school life. Parents can access information on Homework as well as other key information here. If you have forgotten your login details you can click on the ‘forgot password’ link on the login page.

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Unsafe parking

We are concerned about illegal and unsafe parking around school, an issue that has been raised by local residents too.

The staff car park, bus pull-in and Manchester Road at the front of school are all dangerous areas because of the number of parents using them for drop-offs and pick-ups. If your child is unable to travel to school in any other way, please ensure you park a short distance away from the school when dropping them off or picking them up.

As adults we should be role models for the children but, sadly, some parents are abusive when confronted, which is upsetting and nobody wants this. We know that time is precious and everyone is busy but our concern is to create a safer environment for students and staff as they arrive at and leave school. In other words, we must ensure that everyone’s safety is a greater priority than convenient parking. It would be great if we could work together to achieve this.

Education Penalty Notice Warning for Non-School Attendance

I have attached a separate letter about Education Penalty Notices. I should be grateful if you would please read it so that you are clear about the law in relation to your child’s attendance at school.

We have also reviewed and updated our school Attendance Policy. The Policy can be viewed in full on the school’s website. The attached letter highlights the changes we have made to our Policy for ease of reference.

Should you have any concerns at all about your child’s attendance to school, please let us know and we will provide you with support.

As we look forward to a busy and exciting year ahead I would like to thank you for working with us to ensure the best outcomes for all.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs H. J. Phillips

Headteacher