



An Ashmole Trust School

Executive Head Teacher: **Mr Tim Sullivan**

26th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Regrettably we are disappointed to write to you regarding a serious incident that took place with some of our Year 9 students outside of school. You may have already heard or seen footage of this too. Although the main incident has been dealt with by the school and Police, it is the second part to this incident which is concerning. A small number of students chose to film the incident using their mobile phone and circulated it on social media. This is not acceptable behaviour and will not be condoned. Those students have been given a serious sanction.

Not only does distributing these recordings lead to retaliation, but can also encourage ongoing aggression or even fighting. It can also be humiliating and re-traumatising for those filmed and may have a long-term negative impact on their emotional wellbeing. We all have a responsibility to play here and that is to be kind to each other. We attend school as a community, where we all have the responsibility to demonstrate the schools core values and maintain positive relationships with each other. We are therefore very disappointed that this has occurred. Year 9 have been spoken to by the Head Teacher in an assembly and further work will be conducted during form-time to provide further education on this.

May I remind you that mobile phones are not permitted in school. We will be carrying out regular bag checks moving forward to monitor this. Those caught with a phone will be sanctioned and their phones confiscated in line with our mobile phone policy. The Police are also clear on this too. If evidence of a crime that has been committed is recorded on a phone, the Police have the power to seize the phone to use as evidence. This also includes investigating who has recorded the footage by identifying names through social media.

The safety of our students remains our top priority and with this clear policy in place, we know that our pupils are less likely to be targeted by criminals on their journey to and from school. Furthermore, by leaving mobile phones at home, our pupils are more likely to develop good relationships with their peers and avoid many of the issues that can arise when young people fail to act responsibly online.

We hope that you understand and appreciate how serious this is, and our position on such matters. We therefore urge you to discuss the above with your child. Fortunately, this type of misuse is incredibly rare. With the correct re-education and partnership with parent and carers, we can continue to help educate our young people to use their phones wisely, safely and responsibly.

Attached is a copy of the Mobile Phone policy for your information.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Ms C Moon
Senior Assistant Head Teacher

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