

10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## School Update: Mobile Phones, Year Leaders and Start/End of Term

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to update you with some key developments, and also to provide you with some additional information for the new school year starting in September 2019.

### Uniform, Behaviour and Mobile Phones

Firstly, we have been very pleased with the improvements evident in school uniform since we introduced our “tougher expectations” at Easter. This will of course continue in September, when we will continue to insist on full school uniform. A copy of the uniform regulations can be found on our school website, or you can ask for a copy by contacting your child’s year leader. Please pay particular attention to the rules on shoes.

We have also been very pleased with the improvements in behaviour in classrooms and around school, with the vast majority of students conforming well to expectations.

It is now time to introduce the next stage of our “tougher expectations” work around mobile phones, and this is in line with other secondary schools both nationally and in Stockport who have already introduced new expectations. There has been much national debate around the use of mobile phones in schools. Research shows that, as young people become more and more attached to their mobile phones and social media, this can have a negative effect on their mental health. The after-effects of mobile phone use outside of school on the daily lives of our students can create a significant number of daily problems that then spill into school.

We believe that, whilst in school, students need to be free of the distractions that their phones bring. They are an unnecessary distraction on learning in lessons, and they are also unhelpful in unstructured time. Removing mobile phones will enable them to focus on their lessons and also to build and sustain lasting relationships as they socialise with each other.

**From September 2019, mobile phones will be entirely banned from the school site unless they are switched off and kept in bags at all times.** This will apply from the time a student steps through the main gates until they exit via the same gates at the end of the school day. Students who are on site for extra-curricular activities after 4pm may use their phones after this time.

Should students need to contact home for any reason, this should not happen via their mobile phones, and we would encourage parents not to try to ring students via mobile phones during the day. There are plenty of telephones in school that students can use, with the support of a member of staff, should this be required.

Where a mobile phone is seen or heard, I have instructed staff to confiscate it and place it in a named envelope which will be retained in a safe place. If a child hands over their telephone without fuss, they will be allowed to collect it again at the end of the school day. If they are unco-operative in any way, or their phone needs to be repeatedly confiscated, we will retain the phone and contact parents to collect it the next day.

Werneth School, Harrytown, Romiley, Stockport SK6 3BX

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I am sure that we can count on your support with this change in improving engagement in lessons, and we would welcome you discussing the importance of it with your child before the start of the new academic year.

**Year Leaders 2019/20**

May I take this opportunity to confirm the year team leaders for September 2019.

	<b>Achievement Leader</b>	<b>Inclusion Manager</b>	<b>Senior Leader Link</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Mr Z Bennett	Miss C Cherrington	Mrs J Dee
<b>Year 8</b>	Mrs L Taylor	Mrs T Taylor	Mrs G Kennedy
<b>Year 9</b>	Mrs L Harness	Mrs J Hunt	Mr D Willis
<b>Year 10</b>	Mrs J Tonge	Mrs S Barnard	Mr G Norman
<b>Year 11</b>	Mr M Mujagic	Mrs M Lewis	Mrs R Chantler

**End of Summer Term / Start of Autumn Term**

School will finish for the summer next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12 midday. School buses have been booked for this day.

We will return after the summer as follows:

**Year 7** will return on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.40am, and finish at 3.10pm.

**Year 11** will return on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.40am, and finish at 1.30pm. Students will have their year photographs taken on this day, and will commence lessons on this day.

**Years 8, 9 and 10** will return on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.40am. From Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, all year groups will follow their new timetables.

Also, advanced notice that our annual **Open Evening** is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Students will be finishing at 2pm on this day and buses have been booked for this time. If your child wishes to remain in school until 3:10pm they must inform their form tutor, however there will be no school buses running at 3.10pm.

May I take this opportunity to wish all families a relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Conroy  
Headteacher