



Headteacher: Mrs L Ayling BA (Hons) NPQH

March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Parental Support

We continue to work hard to achieve the very best experience and outcomes for the students at our school. Key to this success is our relationship with you as parents and carers. Working together in partnership is the most effective way for us to provide the very best opportunities for your daughter.

With this in mind, I would like to raise two aspects where you, as parents and carers, can have a huge impact.

- Mobile phones and appropriate use of social media
- Attendance

Mobile phones and appropriate use of social media:

We are dealing with an increasing number of issues regarding mobile phones and social media. Often, issues have arisen during the evening or weekend and these are then continued in school. We do not have the capacity to deal with issues that occur outside school hours; this takes our staff away from school business and ultimately will have a negative impact on the quality of provision at school.

If issues occur outside school hours on social media or mobile phones, then we will not be dealing with these matters in school. To support you in dealing with these issues directly, we would suggest the following:

- Advise your daughter on safe and appropriate use of her mobile phone and social media
- Have sanctions in place at home if she uses inappropriately e.g. confiscation of her mobile phone or device
- Attend our Parent Workshops to seek advice and to work with other parents. Our next workshop takes place on: **Thursday 8 March | 5.30-7pm | E-Safety and Social Media**
- Report any serious matters to the Police.

This approach will enable us to be much more proactive in providing the very best opportunities for your daughter.

You will also be aware that we have a no mobile phone expectation in school. If a student is found using her phone, then it is confiscated and put in the school safe until the end of the day. However, a number of students are still having mobile phones removed and some have had them confiscated on a number of occasions. Again, this is taking up valuable staff time and is completely avoidable. After the Easter holiday the following will apply:

- All mobile phones must be switched off and left in the student's bag. They are not to be kept in the top pocket of the blazer as it is often tempting to check the phone during the day.
- If a mobile phone is confiscated, then it will be placed in the school safe until the end of the day when the student can collect it.

- If a mobile phone is confiscated for a second time then it will be confiscated, put in the school safe and a phone call will be made for a parent to collect it. We will not give the phone back to the student – it must be collected by a parent from our Main Reception.

Please be aware that we cannot accept responsibility for confiscated phones although every care is taken. The best advice to give to your daughter is for her to leave her phone in her bag, switched off until the end of the day. In doing so, she will avoid it being confiscated.

Attendance:

If your daughter is in school, then we can provide her with a quality learning experience. Absence from school is a major factor in a child failing to achieve her target grades at the end of her formal education. Cold weather or a cough / cold are not reasons to remain off school. We would always encourage your daughter to attend wherever possible unless she is really unwell. Odd days off can have a serious impact and your daughter can be left with gaps in her learning.

Holidays during term time are not allowed and can have a serious impact on your daughter's education. Fixed Penalty Notices will be served as appropriate. In families with two parents, both will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Your support is very much appreciated and we are always here to support you if you require further help or advice. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we could offer you support.

Please be aware that we will always respond to phone calls and emails in a timely manner. However, due to teaching commitments, we cannot always respond immediately. Similarly, we cannot always be immediately available to meet with you but will always make a mutually convenient appointment time. We ask that parents speak to our staff with respect and courtesy as we will always work with you to support both you and your daughter.

Together, we can really make a difference. Working in partnership we will ensure that your daughter has the best experience possible at Prenton and that she leaves us with a range of opportunities for an exciting future, post 16.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of the aspects raised in this letter; I would be happy to discuss further: fraserg@prentonhighschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully



Mrs G Fraser
Deputy Head

Reply Slip: Parental Support

Student's name: _____ **Form:** _____

I understand that issues on social media or using mobile phones occurring at the weekend or during the evening will not be dealt with in school

I would like to attend the E-safety and Social Media Session on **Thursday 8 March**

I understand that if my daughter has her mobile phone confiscated for a second time then I will be contacted and I will collect the phone from school. I understand that the phone will not be given to my daughter and that, unless collected, she will not have her phone for the journey home.

I understand the importance of excellent attendance and will reinforce these expectations with my daughter.

Parent/Carer sign: _____ **Print:** _____

Email: _____ **Date:** _____

By signing this letter, I am confirming that I have parental responsibility for the child named.