

11th March 2022

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. It has felt lovely as we returned from the half term without masks and have started face to face meetings and assemblies. Seeing all the students together again has felt like such a step forward.

As we are all finding our feet again after such a challenging couple of years some behaviours and issues are coming more to the fore.

Firstly, students' increased addiction to their phones and social media is becoming more and more apparent. Although phones are banned in school they are appearing more and more in corridors and even in some lessons. We have even had situations where children have used a phone to take a picture in class when the teacher's back is turned. This situation is causing too many distractions for staff and students; disrupting learning and causing conflict.

We have now taken the view that we expect phones to be switched off (not on silent) and to be put away during the day in a bag or the zip up pocket of a blazer. If a phone is seen out at any time during the school day it will be confiscated (as we do now), but it will need to be returned to an adult, not the child themselves. We hope the prospect of a family member being called at home/work to collect will discourage phones coming out! We will follow the same procedure with air pods.

Please note if you do use your child's phone to send any urgent messages in the day, please send to admin@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk and we will pass it on. Any messages for the end of the day around pick-ups etc. can be read by students as they leave. Students staying behind for after school clubs will be allowed to check and send messages to you, as we know there can be last minute changes to how they get home.

Some students definitely feel more attached to the virtual world and social media than they were before. We have become aware that many group chats were set up during Covid on Snapchat. These likely exist for most form groups. Over time random people join these groups and the content becomes unpredictable. I know many of you will already have established ways you monitor your child's use of social media but if you don't I would urge to you put something in place. We have instructed students to remove themselves from these groups. Please do contact us if you require any specific guidance around your child.

We are currently running a whole half term of assemblies and PSHE work around respect and healthy relationships. Much of the focus being around our young people's online identities and behaviour.

Another slight tweak to our running of the school is around jewellery. Students are permitted a watch and a pair of stud earrings. Any additional jewellery has to be removed as students

arrive at school. We currently ask for this to be removed and put away. Unfortunately, some students are continually putting jewellery back on and off all day. To simplify this expectation, once jewellery is removed before school, if it is put back on it will be confiscated and kept in a small plastic bag. Students can collect this at the end of a day, but heads of year will contact parents if we have repeat issues.

Something to bring to your attention is that we have had several issues recently with things being dropped/thrown from our top floor down to the atrium/lower floors. We are currently considering extremely severe sanctions with governors. This is such dangerous behaviour and could have horrendous long-term consequences if someone is hit. We will be adding this behaviour to our list of reasons to consider a permanent exclusion. Your support reinforcing this message at home would be much appreciated.

Finally, those of you whose children use the buses will be very aware how busy they are after school. This is particularly bad at 2:55pm as Burnley High School finish at 2:50pm. To allow Burnley High students to get on the bus before ours arrive, Years 7 and 8 will finish 5 minutes later, at 3pm, from Monday.

Your support with these things is always appreciated. Sometimes the small issues can be the most frustrating and they do affect the smooth running of the school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R England
Headteacher