

1st May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we return to school after our Easter Break I felt it was a good time to write to you. This term we have the external examinations for our year 11, 12 and 13 pupils, it can be a stressful time for pupils and we recognise the pressures external examinations bring and the determination and motivation needed to be prepared for the same. Our pupil's families also feel the strain as they support and encourage their daughters and siblings to manage this period of time. Throughout the examination period there are opportunities for pupils to get the help they need with revision and preparation for each of their subjects. Pupils should attend as many of these sessions as possible, they really do make a difference to the confidence levels and the sense of readiness pupils need to secure the best possible outcomes. Please be assured our staff are on hand to help and you must contact us if you need advice and guidance with any aspect of your daughter's examination preparation and education in general.

Our younger pupils may not be involved in external examinations at this point but there remains the expectancy they are organised and ready for learning in every lesson on every day. It is a reflection of your support that the greater majority of our pupils are doing well and are developing into the positive young people that will go on to make a difference to our society and our world. There is no doubt it is only when good relationships and strong partnerships exist between home and school that we see the best outcomes for our young people. This is not just about qualifications gained but also about the people our pupils are and grow to be. Every day we see examples of compassion, kindness and generosity of spirit. We witness respect and the acceptance of responsibility and I am often humbled by the achievements and contributions our pupils make to secure our school as the good school it is.

We must work to maintain the high standards we hold in all aspects of our work, this can prove to be a source of tension at times and every parent and carer experiences times when what they believe is best for their daughters can be in direct conflict with what their daughters think is best for them. Mobile phones are a prime example of this tension, they are a valuable tool in communication and for the majority of the time are used positively, however, they are also a tool that bring many problems, especially when used at inappropriate times and for inappropriate reasons.

I know you will understand why we do not allow Mobile phones in school, they can be given in at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. This will ensure you can be in touch with your daughter as she travels to and from school. If there is a need for a pupil to be in contact with home during the school day we will always facilitate this. I am asking for your renewed support in this matter as I am becoming increasingly aware and concerned regarding the problems mobile phones and their use in school are bringing. Mobile phones and their use must be carefully monitored and checked by parents and carers, despite the difficulties this may bring the failure to do so can bring much more serious consequences. If the contract and the bill are in your name you do have the right and responsibility to check the use of the same.

The issues around the misuse of Social Media and the worryingly negative impact the same can have are high on the agenda for political agencies as well as for Department for Education. This gives an indication of the serious nature of the consequences adults and young people can face and be victim to. Your daughters' safety and well-being is a priority for us whilst she is in school and under our care, therefore we must have your full support in regards to the management of mobiles phones. If your daughter has had her phone confiscated please contact us to arrange to collect her phone the following school day.

There have been many trips and extra-curricular events over the last two terms and many more are planned for the forthcoming term, our pupils gain so much from these experiences, none of which would happen without your commitment. Despite the extra work these opportunities entail our staff are always willing to give of their time to enable them to take place.

The amount of time and effort our pupils give to charity work is astounding, they really do give so generously in every aspect and many charities benefit from their work. They truly model the message of our Founder Sister

Catherine McAuley, whose focus was always those less fortunate than ourselves and who inspires us to always act with compassion.

I also ask for your support in relation to dropping your daughter off or picking her up at the start and end of the school day. I do not need to remind you of the dangers both of these actions can bring and I would ask you to consider if you could make arrangements that do not impact upon the safety of members of our school community. I get constant complaints from both motorists and local residents about the dangerous parking etc.: they have witnessed around our school locality. I can only ask for support in this matter because despite my best efforts I cannot control the traffic around our school, therefore I call on your understanding and consideration. Broughton Hall staff, parents or pupils should not use Zoe's Place entrance at any time, again I am sure you understand the need for sensitivity in this matter.

Together we are forging the future for our young people, supporting, guiding and taking account of their views and needs, a fine balance for us all. Our young people are our greatest asset, parents and carers along with Broughton Hall staff have the privilege of walking alongside them to ensure they fulfil their hopes, dreams and aspirations.

Thank you for your continuing support and for the trust you place in us.

Yours sincerely

S A Clarke

Head Teacher