



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Staffordshire

Our reference PJT/NHS/cam
20 June 2011

Parent Letter No 126 (Year 8,9 & 10 students)

Dear Parent / Carer

"Safe School"

Wolgarston is committed to providing a safe school in which our students can flourish socially and achieve to their academic potential before embarking on their future lives. I am sure that all parents would agree that the safety and happiness of their son/daughter is a daily expectation. Having achieved a grade 1 (Outstanding) for behaviour during our last OFSTED inspection we want to do even better.

Our aim is that students have positive relationships and show respect and tolerance towards each other at all times. Every child should feel safe and receive support to be so. Our Family and Students Services Centre staff provides this first line of mentoring and they are themselves able to seek further assistance from House Tutors, House Leaders and Senior Staff should it be necessary.

During the early part of the Spring Term we experienced an increase in unsafe behaviour between a small number of students who used social networking sites such as "Facebook" to send unpleasant and threatening comments to other students. As a school we tackled each such occasion and spent hours resolving what were very often petty squabbles which should not have escalated as they did. Our belief is that even after students had been supported to resolve their issues other students deliberately attempted to escalate the situation either through "Facebook" or the sending of text messages.

We cannot tolerate this type of anti social behaviour which conflicts with our commitment to being a high achieving school with outstandingly safe behaviour. Therefore we have consulted with our Parents Forum, staff and the student body to address this issue and put into place a clear standard for respect between students. We have also made change to our school Behaviour and Safety Policy.

One of those changes is to address unsafe and anti-social behaviour through the implementation of a "Social Exclusion" for any student who does not support our "Safe School" ethos. Students will be detained for all non lesson time (breaks, lunchtimes) for a significant period of time (several weeks in some cases). Their mobile phone will be confiscated.

Students are expected to use their mobile phones responsibly and should never use them to send harmful or threatening messages. Phones should never be used in classrooms or examination venues. Students who do not use their phone responsibly will also be detained during their social periods and will have their phones confiscated.

We seek your support in ensuring that your son/daughter is aware of their responsibilities to ensure that all students are safe and to use their mobile phones correctly around the school premises at all times.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Curtis

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