

Year 7 Parent Notes

At our assembly this week we welcomed a guest speaker, PC Adams, Tandridge Youth Intervention Officer, to talk to the students about the risks associated with social media and mobile phones. With the next few years in mind, as your son/daughter will most likely increase their use of their mobile phones and websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, we thought it important to advise Year 7. There were some key points given to the students which we feel are important to share with you too:

- Some students may have a mobile phone on contract. As they are all under 18 this would require an adult (most likely you) to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the contract. If these terms and conditions are breached and there is a misuse of the mobile phone then the contract holder can be fined up to £2,000.
- It is a criminal offence for any person to send another person a letter, or any form of electronic communication (text/email/social media) of any description which the receiver finds to be indecent or grossly offensive, a threat or causes distress or needless anxiety to the recipient or for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience to another
- Every action performed on social media is traceable for up to 7 years. If investigating, the police can see everything that has been texted, downloaded, messaged or photographed
- It is illegal to take, possess, or share any 'indecent images' (including videos) of anyone under the age of 18. It is also illegal to store or print them out. Every reported incident will be investigated by the police
- A criminal record would lead to problems securing university applications or jobs and travelling to countries around the world
- Once an image is taken and uploaded it can never be taken back. It will be in the public domain for all to see and use
- If allegations are made the police will investigate and the school fully supports their actions. This includes coming into school and arresting any students should this be required
- If students are sent anything inappropriate they have been advised to tell a trusted adult as soon as possible and the police will be informed

We are not accusing any students of any of these actions, and it was not designed to scare students but we want to make sure that if any incidents do occur in the next few years, that we have taken the necessary steps to educate the students, meaning the choices they make are now fully informed, and hopefully the consequences understood. The students respectfully listened to the talk and we hope they understand the important messages given.

Grade sheets will be released in the w/c Monday 11 December; there will be two grades for each subject. One is the Flight Path Grade, using the new 9-1 GCSE grading system, which lets you know that if they keep working as they are now then this is the grade we would expect them to achieve at the end of Year 11. There will also be an Approach to Learning grade, based on a 1 to 4 scale, which as the name suggests gives an indication of the way in which they apply themselves to their learning.

With grades soon to be released we must also start preparing for Progress Review Evening which takes place on Thursday 14 December, from 4.30pm until 7.30pm.

Students will have the opportunity to book 5 minute appointments with their teachers so that they and you can meet to discuss their progress. The appointment sheets are designed so there is a 5 minute gap between each appointment in order to give time to move to the next meeting. The appointment sheets will be released with next week's bulletin.

For those experiencing Progress Review Evening for the first time we will be advising students to:

- Speak to parents during the week to find out if they are available and what sort of timeframe works best for them
- When booking the appointment, write the name of the **subject** and **teacher** being seen
- Update parents each evening with the appointments you have booked so parents can keep a record

We hope you have a good week.

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