

15 February 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

E-safety and the appropriate use of Mobile Phones

We would appreciate your time in reading this letter as there are important messages about your child's safety

Most of the secondary schools in the Havant Area work together for the good of all students; this group is called the Havant Federation of Schools. We take the safety and health of our students in the Havant area seriously and we are always grateful for the support that parents and carers provide to support us in enforcing our high standards and expectations. We will use our email and text services to inform you of any issues that you should be aware of that may affect your child's safety. I am sure that all of us want to protect our children, support them so they make the correct and right decisions concerning their behaviour and equip them with the necessary skills to be responsible citizens in the future. Our comprehensive mentor, assembly, character building and challenge day programmes ensure that we educate students, give them time to reflect and guide them to make informed decisions.

The week beginning 13 February 2017 has a national E-safety focus.

Technology has brought many advantages to society and the way in which we live our lives but it has also brought problems and increasing concerns such as sometimes sending unkind texts and posting pictures of that are degrading and malicious. Throughout the year we regularly highlight safe behaviours to students but in the e-safety week we emphasise the benefits and dangers associated with technological devices and social networking. Students watched a short film in Monday assembly this week about on-line risks with strangers.

We would ask you to support our drive to ensure that our young people are safe on line by taking time to ensure that you as parents/carers know what your children are accessing on line, whether they are using their mobile phones and devices responsibly and not sending unkind messages or sharing images of other people. **It is illegal to share images of other people on line without permission.** Students should never share personal information or contact details with anyone they do not know. Equally students need to be aware that what they do on line is recorded and becomes their digital footprint. If a person's digital footprint proves to be derogatory then it could jeopardise career and education choices in the future.

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Recently a Year 11 student informed a colleague that his parents had taken away his Playstation as this was too much of a distraction and he had not been using his time sufficiently for revising for the final examinations. They were also concerned that their son was not socialising and communicating sufficiently in person with the rest of the family and his friends. We share these views too; whilst technology has its benefits there are also many other activities that young people can embrace and enjoy such as sport, the outdoors, the joys of reading, drama, the arts and many more activities that challenge us and give us the opportunity to socialise and meet people.

We ask that all our parents/carers support us in our campaign to keep our young people safe and happy. Attached to this letter is a statement from the Governing Bodies and Headteachers from the Havant Federation of Schools about how we will respond to issues that arise from the use of social media.

We thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Anders", with a small dot at the end.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher