



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

19th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

'TikTok' and the use of mobile phones

I am sorry that I have to write to you again this week regarding your son's mobile phone and use of social media, but this is something we really need your support with. You will have seen information in the news about the misuse of social media accounts by students and the negative impact this is having on teachers. This is something affecting most secondary schools across the country and we are no exception.

We are aware of 'TikTok' videos being created which include either the names or images of some teachers. The tone of what is presented, is wholly inappropriate. Could I ask that you do the following:

- Speak to your child, whatever their age, about the risk they are placing themselves in if they create or follow a slanderous account(s).
- Ensure your child (if under 13) does not have access to social media accounts where the age range from the provider does not permit it.
- Sit with your child and look at the accounts they follow and the nature of the content they are either sending or receiving.

Obviously we are concerned about the welfare of our students and what they have access to on their mobile phones, but there is also the concern for our dedicated teachers and team of staff. There is both a recruitment and retention issue of teachers in England, with many opting to leave the profession. This will not be helped, if teachers are subject to abuse on social media by a minority of young people and it is not consistent with the ethos of our Catholic School.

Please ensure that it is not your child who is causing the problem, either directly (by posting or sending inappropriate images or messages) or indirectly (by following slanderous accounts or not reporting activity to providers such as 'TikTok'). There was a video thankfully removed this week after it was reported. However, a student had to be excluded for sending an inappropriate message on 'WhatsApp'. The school believes that its staff members should be respected and have the right to privacy. The school will not hesitate to involve our school based Police Officers to help protect our committed team of staff who come to work each day to do their very best for our young people.

John Fisher School Association (JFA)

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended the JFA meeting on Wednesday evening. New members are always welcome. Bacon rolls and hot drinks will now be available to purchase at Plough Lane for all Rugby matches played there. Payment can be made by cash or card. Again, all proceeds will go to supporting the school.

Epilogue

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended our Epilogue after school on Thursday in the Chapel. We received the following feedback:

'Please would you pass on my huge thanks to Ms Harrington Booth and Mr Ford (and any other music staff that I'm not aware of). I've just been to my third Epilogue as part of our journey with John Fisher and each time I'm blown away! It is so beautiful. I really appreciate the hours of time, rehearsal and dedication that goes into each piece. How they learn 3 new pieces each month and have them ready at a performance level is amazing. I particularly loved the 3rd piece that they did today - the sound, especially those top notes was stunning. It is so, so wonderful to hear live singing again. So, a huge, huge thank you from us.' (Parent of a Year 7 student)

Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting

Thank you to all of the Yr 10 parent/carers who attended our first remote Parent Teacher Meeting of the school year. We hope that you found it helpful.

Year 11 & Sixth Form Students

We have been really pleased with our Yr 11 students who have been sitting their Core PPE examinations this week. These examinations finish on Monday and the Sixth Form examinations will start on Monday 29th November.

INSET Day: Tuesday 23rd November

A reminder that Tuesday 23rd November is a staff INSET Day. The theme is Trans Inclusion and the Dignity of Difference.

Anti-bullying Week & International Men's Day

This week we have been focusing on anti-bullying. Today was 'International Men's Day' and this year's theme was 'what makes a good role model'.

White Ribbon Day: Thursday 25th November

A number of student representatives will be attending the White Ribbon Pledge Ceremony taking place on Thursday 25th November in Sutton. White Ribbon is the largest global initiative to end male violence against women, by calling on men to take action to make a difference.

JFA Christmas Tree Sale

The JFA will be selling Christmas trees again this year, ranging from just £35. It is more vital than ever that staff, parents/carers and former students support the JFA with this fundraiser as every penny comes back to the school at a time when it is very much needed. Orders can now be made via ParentPay with more information attached.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher