



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

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

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

With our summer half-term coming to an end I am pleased to note how many positive achievements there have been this year. This is down to your overwhelming support for the school and our staff, your son's teachers, for which we thank you.

Our primary aim is always to ensure your son remains as safe as possible when wearing The John Fisher uniform, on his way to and from school and whilst in school itself. We are extremely fortunate in knowing our parents/carers reinforce our school ethos, expectations and rules. I reiterate the fact that students are ambassadors for their school, their families and that their behaviour reflects on both very clearly.

I am again asking every parent/carer to observe the following measures:

**Road safety to and from school:** Four of our students have unfortunately been victims of road traffic accidents this year. This is despite frequent reminders in Team Meetings about Road Safety, notices around school and assemblies from TfL. Please remind your son(s) to be more aware on their journey. The school is reviewing dropping off and traffic flow around the school roads.

**E-safety:** A number of social platform, mobile phone and e-safety incidents have been brought to our attention. Every member of our school community is reminded that mobile phones must be switched off before coming onto the school site. Recently a situation was brought to light involving the app 'Yellow'. Yellow is an app designed for teenagers to make friends. They do this by looking at a picture and then swiping left or right to say whether they like the person or not. Through this app one of our students was targeted by an individual who was not the photo depicted. Conversations between the student and this individual were deeply inappropriate and not suitable. It seemed that the individual on the other end was in the process of trying to get the student to meet up with them some distance away from where they live. Due to the vigilance of the student's parents we were informed and in turn the police became involved and an investigation has begun. The student is safe and no further contact has been made between them and the individual in question.

As a school we are reinforcing e-safety constantly through our PSHE programme and team meetings but we would ask that you remain vigilant. In particular if your son has the app 'Yellow' to be even more so. The NSPCC has issued an official warning with regards to this app. Please visit [nspcc.org](http://nspcc.org) for more information. Please have a conversation with your son about the sort of people he is talking to online and often the simple question 'what do you *actually* know about them?' can be quite powerful. It is also really important that your son does not disclose any personal information about themselves no matter how insignificant they may deem it. Just by saying what school they go to can be incredibly dangerous.

**Attendance and punctuality:** Maintaining our attendance and punctuality records consistently above the national average is a real challenge. The John Fisher School is committed to a positive policy of encouraging students to attend school on time. There is a clear link between students who attend school on time and students who achieve academically. We are committed to encouraging and supporting parents and carers in ensuring that their children regularly attend school on time. This is achieved by providing a caring learning environment, which motivates students to be in school by 8.40am each day and allows issues that prevent outstanding punctuality to be identified early, and acted upon promptly.

**Playgrounds and break times:** Year 7 no longer have early lunch and must now queue up at 1.15pm with Year 9. Years 8 and 10 go in at 12.55pm. Our caterers have assured the school that there is always enough variety and choice for every student.

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June there is a General Election. As part of our work around British Values we are holding a mock election in school. Your son will have the opportunity to vote for one of the five main parties. To help him make an informed decision he will have seen a diluted version of each of the parties' manifestos, a copy of which is on the school website and he would have discussed it in form time. In addition to this in his assembly some Year 12 politics students will be making the case for one of the five parties. Please could you talk to your son about his thoughts on the election. He may wish to discuss some of the policies at home with you and this should be encouraged. On the day itself he will be casting his vote and the results will be published on the website on Friday morning.

Finally, we all recognise the enormous impact of the Manchester concert attack on our communities, especially as it was targeted against families and children. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and all those affected by this cruel attack. Attacks like these are aimed to frighten communities and to create hate and division. As we approach the Bank Holiday weekend with the half term school break I wanted to reach out to our young people across the country to help reassure them and to make them feel safe and confident as they enjoy the school break. We will be reiterating the following messages at school:

- That all forms of extremism and hatred is wrong
- No faith or religion believes in violence or hurt
- Look out for anything suspicious and report it to an adult or to the police
- Use your powerful voice as a generation of young people to support the **#WeStandTogether** campaign

The voices of our young people will be extremely powerful in showing how we remain defiant against all forms of terrorism, extremism and hatred. The national security threat assessment has been increased to CRITICAL for the time being which will see additional uniformed presence in high profile and busy locations as well as within local neighbourhoods. The police are going to be visible throughout half term and looking to engage with all sections of communities including young people and would urge everyone to approach police officers and staff on duty and talk to them. I am sure this will help reassure us all and make us feel safe and confident.

Have a lovely half term break.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh, Headteacher