

8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parent of Year 9 students

We have been made aware once again, by both children and parents, that some text and WhatsApp messages between our pupils that are sent outside of school hours, have been causing some upset and distress.

As you are aware, friendship difficulties that arise in school will be dealt with according to our behaviour policy (please see policy on the school website), however, issues that occur outside of school hours are beyond our direct control and it remains the responsibility of the parent to monitor messages that are being sent and received by their child.

We continue to deliver weekly e-safety lessons alongside reinforcing appropriate 'online communication behaviour' at school. Pupils are always advised that if they receive a message that is upsetting or inappropriate they need to inform their parents and block the person sending the message.

Following guidance, from today we will not allow the children to use their phone during school hours. The phones will need to be put into their lockers or we can provide a locked box for them to be kept in. If we see a child using their phone, it will be confiscated and returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

We hope to have your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Georgina Pryke  
Head Teacher