



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Monday 19th October 2020

Be Respectful – Use of Mobile Phones

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have previously written to you regarding two of our rules, Be Ready and Be Safe, in order to highlight some aspects of Pembroke life that we all should focus on. I am writing to you now to reiterate our expectations on Being Respectful, in particular the use of mobile phones, and to ask for your support.

As you are aware, and as is clearly stated in the student planner (page 8), mobile phones must not be used by students between 8:40am and 3:05pm. Mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight. However, we are not blind to the fact that in the digital age of the 21st Century the use of mobile phones is more prevalent than ever before. We are also aware that they can be a powerful and effective tool when used in the right way. This is why some teachers may allow the controlled use of mobile phones in some learning activities.

The vast majority of Pembroke students are Respectful in their use of mobile phones. They follow the guidelines and the sight of a mobile phone in Pembroke is rare. However, it is important to highlight some incidents have come to our attention of misuse of mobile phones by students, including misuse beyond the school gates.

Social media is an enticing distraction for students. Checking for updates from people you follow, the latest post in a group chat or how many 'likes' your post has received can all be done at the right time. Students can set time aside in their day to do this, outside of the normal school hours.

Many phones have a built in app that tracks 'screen time' over a day or a week. Highlighting the amount of time spent looking at a phone can often be eye-opening to phone users. This is a good place to start when trying to cut down usage.

"Would you show that to your Grandma?" is a phrase that is powerful when using mobile phones. Adolescents can participate in risky behaviours, and the 'protection' that is afforded of being behind a screen can be a push factor to these risky behaviours, and in turn means some messages, pictures sent or posts are inappropriate, dangerous and harmful.

I know I can count on your support when talking to your children about appropriate use of mobile phones, another example of Achieving Together. If you would like any more support or advice, or you would like to discuss this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy using the details at the bottom of the page.

Kind regards,

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Personal Development and Relationships

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