Dear Parent or Carer

I regret to inform you that some of our Year 7 students are persisting in using their mobile phones to take photographs and videos of other students, and some of these are being posted on social media sites. This is very concerning and we must do all we can to stop this potentially dangerous behaviour.

Students are not permitted to use their phones on the school site and if they are seen they will be confiscated and the student punished for using it. Unfortunately, the threat of confiscation and punishment does not deter some students from using their phones when out of sight of staff.

Year 7 students have been spoken to on a number of occasions about inappropriate use of mobile devices, the internet and the associated dangers. However, many of them appear to have access to social media accounts such as ‘snap-chat’ and some students are using these accounts to post pictures, add sometimes cruel comments and frankly bully their peers. Students in Year 7 are underage to hold such accounts and the age limit is there for a reason. That is, that eleven and twelve year-olds are too young to fully understand the harm they can cause and the potentially vulnerable situation they put themselves into by posting images and other material. We are seeing an increasing number of high-spec devices being brought into school and we need your assistance if we are to protect our students. Ways you can help us fight against cyber-bullying and internet risk include:

- Closely monitoring your son’s use of the internet at home and not allowing him to use sites where he is still underage to hold accounts such as ‘snap-chat’
- Only allowing your son to bring a ‘basic’ mobile phone to school for emergency use. High-spec i-phones are really not necessary in school.

We are also finding that some parents are telephoning or texting their sons during school hours. Please do not do this. If you urgently need to get a message to your son then do so via the school office.

I will be speaking with Year 7 in assembly this morning again about their use of phones, the internet, and bullying in general. From Monday, as well as increasing our focus on the use of mobile phones, we will be having daily checks on the equipment students are bringing to school and the wearing of school uniform. The equipment should include pens, pencil, ruler, reward card, contact book and a private reading book. Any student who does not bring in all required equipment or is not wearing complete school uniform will be placed in an after school detention the following afternoon as follows:

1\textsuperscript{st} occurrence: 10 minutes

2\textsuperscript{nd} occurrence: 30 minutes

3\textsuperscript{rd} occurrence: referral to Head of House and School detention. If the problem persists further sanctions will be imposed.

www.tsatrust.org.uk
Students found using mobile phones or other mobile devices will also be placed in detention. Students found to be engaging in Cyber-bullying will be sanctioned appropriately, including external exclusion.

Many thanks for your support in assisting us in making the school a safe and harmonious environment for all our students.

Yours sincerely

Juliet Diaz
Head of School