

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

1st July, 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

As we start the final three weeks of the academic year, I am writing to you with a few updates and with notice of a significant change of school policy for September.

FREEDOM

Our value of the month is Freedom: In a just community like Holywell we have a lot of freedom but it is more than just being able to do whatever we want. We must treat others as we wish to be treated and

make sure that doing what we want means everyone else feels safe and valued as well. As Nelson Mandela said: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." This also echoes the sentiment from Galatians (5:13) "Use your freedom to serve one another in love". We have seen several examples of this in our community over the last few weeks, but we have also seen the opposite. Please re-inforce that notion of kindness to others with your children at home and ensure that particularly with regard to social media, only words and images of kindness are posted. If it's not kind ... don't post!

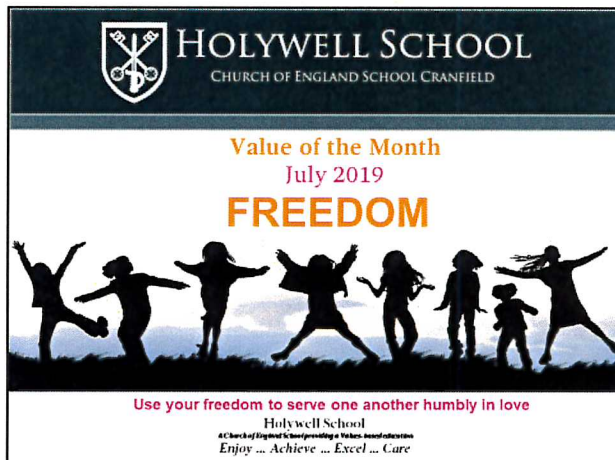
MOBILE PHONE POLICY

In my last letter, I mentioned that our number one priority is the safety and happiness of every child. The use of smart phones has, in the last few months, become a real challenge for us and we have seen an increase in the number of issues to do with online abuse via mobile phone technology and social media. This is often out of school or on the journey to and from school. These issues then manifest themselves in school. At the moment we provide storage facilities, however, the increasing number of devices being brought into school, means that this service is no longer practical or viable. We appreciate that there is a positive side to mobile phone technology and students have been keen to advocate the use of smart phones in school. However, we provide adequate ICT facilities in school and we do not need students to access information through their own devices. We know that students often carry mobile phones so that they can contact parents before and after school. Beyond this, there is no need for students to use their mobile phones in school.

As a result of this, we have reviewed our mobile phone policy and, with effect from September, we will not allow students to bring smart phones to school. The full policy is available on our Website (in the Policies section). Parents can request permission for students to carry a non-smart phone for use before and/or after school (an application form is in Appendix 1 or our revised Mobile Phone policy which is available on our website – and a copy is attached here). For safeguarding and safety purposes, we recommend models without cameras, without apps, and without internet connection. ie. Nokia 105 (available to buy from £14.75 – £19.99 at retailers such as Amazon, Argos, AO or Carphone Warehouse). Where permission is given, the student will be responsible for the non-smart phone at all times. The non-smart phone must be turned off at all times. The school accepts no responsibility for the safe keeping of any mobile phone.

CHARITY WEEK

Our annual Charity Week events take place this week – with our main events being on Tuesday and Friday – Non-uniform day on Tuesday and Charity Fair on Friday afternoon. Students voted on the



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Stewart - Deputy Headteacher Mr S Van Der Merwe - Assistant Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

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Holywell School

two charities which we are supporting this year during our Values Day and both are linked to our value of Justice. Monies raised from events this year will be split between Fairtrade and Embrace.

Fairtrade

Farming is the single largest employer in the world, providing livelihoods for 40% of today's global population. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households. Yet millions of those who live on smallholder farms are going hungry, not earning enough to properly feed either themselves or their families. Why is this? Many farmers do not receive a fair price for what they produce. Workers do not receive a fair wage and are denied labour, economic, social, civil and political rights such as freedom of association, a living wage, collective bargaining and health & safety standards. Fairtrade works to share the benefits of trade more equally. It is the only certification scheme that has a minimum safety net price – this provides essential stability.

The Fairtrade Premium delivers an extra payment to farmers and workers – this provides the ability to build for the future. Fairtrade Standards require farmers and workers to be organized, inclusive, democratic and accountable – this provides the strength to negotiate and protect a fairer deal. Fairtrade's approach provides safeguards against the exploitation of vulnerable and marginalised populations, and helps promote protection of the natural environment. For further information visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and try to buy as many Fairtrade products as possible!

Embrace

Embrace works with law enforcement agencies and safeguarding professionals in a variety of ways. They forge meaningful partnerships with organisations to deliver help. Their range of emotional, practical, specialist and cheer-up support services make a big difference in brightening young people's lives after the devastating effects of crime. Whatever is needed to help a child cope with what has happened, recover and move on is what they aim to deliver. Embrace counsellors work with students who have been traumatised by crime, who have been witness to domestic abuse or who are experiencing emotional difficulties due to family break-ups and separation. Several Holywell students have benefitted from counselling from Embrace. Further details are available at: <https://bedsdv.org.uk/get-help/embrace-child-victims-of-crime/>

DATES AND EVENTS

Tuesday, 2nd July : Charity Week Mufti Day
Friday, 5th July : Charity Fair (afternoon)
Monday, 8th July - PTFA Disco 6.30-8.00pm
July 11th – End of Year Music Concert
100 HP Club : Our final rewards afternoon for this year is on Thursday 11th July pm reg and lesson 5.
July 12th – Year 8 Leavers' and Awards Evening
July 15th – French Trip to the Europa Centre
July 16th and 17th – New Year 5 Induction (inc. Induction Evening 16 th July at 6.00pm)
July 18th –Year 8 Trip to Xscape

MG Simpson
Headteacher



Holywell School

Application for permission to carry a non-smart phone in school

Student Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

I hereby request permission for _____ to carry a non-smart mobile phone in school. I am aware that the school cannot be held responsible for any damage to the phone and/ or for the phone if it is lost, mislaid or stolen.

We have read the Holywell Mobile Phone Policy and agree to abide by the contents of the Policy.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Relationship to the student: _____

Counter-signature by member of Holywell Staff to confirm permission has been granted for the non-smart mobile phone to be carried in school: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____