



Oak



Ash



Elm

TYTHERINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

AND SPECIALIST SCIENCE COLLEGE

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Achievement for All

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RAR/SAC

26th March 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to bring to your attention three issues which indirectly have a major part to play in helping your son/daughter to be happy and successful in school.

In recent years, there has been a significant drive for schools to take an active role in promoting the importance of good health. Tytherington has achieved both the Cheshire and National Healthy Schools Standard in recognition of the work the school does to actively promote good health and well being. We also recognise that it is important that we continue to promote the importance of good health in young people and work in partnership with families to help our students make the right choices in health related matters.

Recently, we have noticed that an increasing number of students are bringing to school carbonated drinks, including stimulant drinks such as 'Red Bull'. There also appears to be an increase in the number of 'snacks' that are being consumed in school that have high sugar and/or salt content. I am sure that there are a significant number of students who purchase many of these items on the journey to school and I felt it important that you were made aware of this.

It is now well known that a healthy balanced diet, combined with regular exercise and a good night's sleep, can make a very significant difference to mental health and agility and that this is particularly the case in growing children and young people.

You will be aware that there has been a significant drive to improve the quality of food served in schools and like all other schools, Tytherington, through our Catering Contractor, Cheshire Business Services (CBS), has to adhere to very strict regulations as to the food that we provide. However, we also know that, ultimately, healthy eating and a balanced diet are only likely to be achieved when young people make healthy choices.

We were one of the very first schools in the country to develop a 'cashless canteen' which provides parents/carers with the opportunity to ensure that money provided for school meals is actually spent in school and not on the way to school. It also provides the opportunity, on request, for you to have quite detailed information on the food your child purchases from the school refectory. We recognise that our cashless system is now quite dated and we are planning to upgrade it for the next school year. The upgrade will include the introduction of 'parent pay', a system which allows on-line payment by debit or credit card. More information about these changes will be sent to you in the summer term.

Additional information on healthy eating will be made available on the school website also during the summer term.

Cont./...

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Mobile Phones – The policy at THS

Recently, we seem to be experiencing an increase in the number of students, and sometimes parents/carers, who are in breach of the school's policy on the use of mobile phones. This is particularly problematic when a student uses this technology to report an incident that has occurred in school before informing school staff. This often results in unnecessary stress and concern for parents/carers, school staff and quite often the student.

We also know that mobile phones and the Internet can now be the source of much bullying that occurs in society. This is an issue that we take very seriously and a lot of work has been undertaken in assemblies and as part of our pastoral curriculum to raise students' awareness of this and provide them with clear guidance on what to do if they are a victim of 'cyber bullying'.

The school policy, which can be found on page 7 of the Student Planner, states:

'Mobile phones are permitted but not encouraged, and their use is restricted. They must be out of sight and switched off or kept on silent during lessons and at all times that you are on the school premises or when travelling on school organised transport. Urgent messages can be passed on to you via Reception or your House Office, or sent by you from your House Office'.

The policy was developed a number of years ago in response to parental requests to allow students to have a mobile phone on their way to and from school. School policies are subject to periodic review and we will, of course, communicate any future changes to you.

I know that my concern over the inappropriate use of mobile phones is shared by Headteacher colleagues in other schools. It has led to one school recently taking the decision to ban mobile phones completely. Please help us avoid having to consider such a draconian measure at Tytherington by observing the current school policy.

School Uniform

Finally, I would like to draw everyone's attention to the need for dressing appropriately for school by adhering to our uniform policy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the very many families who give their full support to the school on this issue. There are clear guidelines on page 8 of each Student Planner about the high standard of personal appearance that we require, particularly with regard to the length and type of girls' skirts. Please take the opportunity over the Easter break, if necessary, to make sure that the correct uniform will be worn to school from the start of next term.

Yours sincerely

R A ROBINSON
Headteacher