



**Ashton
Community
Science
College**

Headteacher: Miss S Asquith BA Hons, MA, NPQH

Aldwych Drive, Ashton,
Preston PR2 1SL

Tel: 01772 513002

Web: www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk

E-mail: enquiries@ashtoncsc.com

'a school to be proud of'

13th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Mobile phone consultation

Thank you for participating in the consultation at the end of November which proposed banning the use of mobile phones on and in the school premises. 73% of the responses were in favour of the proposal and so from Tuesday January 4th 2022 students will not be allowed to use mobile phones on the school premises.

The progress being made in mobile technology is changing the world in which our children are developing. We recognise this brings many positives and it can be a powerful and beneficial tool. We are very ambitious about the progress our students should make and have high expectations for what they can achieve. Our continued focus on raising standards and expectations alongside the paramount need to safeguard all within the school family led us to reflect on role mobile phones play in our students' school day and the impact on teaching, learning, behaviour and mental health.

This restriction would be in effect from the moment the students enter the school site at the start of the day and until they leave the school site at the end of the day. Simply, we want the focus in the school to be on learning and for students to feel safe.

We firmly believe that giving students a break from constant updates and messages will not only improve academic progress and outcomes, but will also support safety and benefit their social skills, fostering an environment of positive communication and interaction with peers and adults.

We know that many parents whole-heartedly agree and already do not allow their children to bring phones to school for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, we also acknowledge that, for some students, the idea of not having access to their phone during the day will be a challenge. We will continue to educate students on the benefits of this decision, whilst providing reassurance to students and parents that effective communication between the school and parents will be maintained in routine and emergency situations.

As with any major change, there will need to be a period of adjustment. To make sure this is embedded in January, we will tell students of the plan this week, so they can acclimatise and adjust to the idea before we break for the Christmas holidays.



We understand the safety benefits of having a phone for the journey to and from school may outweigh the risks and accept that students will still have a phone in their possession. Nevertheless, we ask for your support in ensuring that all students understand that, while in school, phones must be switched off and be out of sight in school bags. The expectation will be simple – if it is seen or heard, it will be confiscated.

Please be assured that our actions are in the best interest of the safety, learning and progress of your child.

Laptops and internet access

We still have a small number of laptops available for students who do not have access to technology at home. If you feel your child would benefit from loaning a laptop to assist them in completing home learning, please contact your child's progress leader.

Lost property

We have amassed a large amount of lost property this term, including coats, PE kits and items of school uniform. All lost property will be laid out on tables in the dining room this week. Please encourage your child to come and have a look at what is there if they have mislaid anything. Unclaimed lost property is washed and either recycled for use in our uniform store or sent to charity so please do encourage your child to come and check.

School closure for Christmas

School closes for the Christmas break on Friday 17th December at 1.20pm.

School re-opening and Covid testing

School re-opens on Tuesday 4th January 2022. The DFE have asked all schools to implement routine testing for Covid when students return, so we will be carrying this out on Tuesday. We will use the previous consent forms so there is no need for you to do anything. Students who do not have parental permission to engage in testing will not be tested. If you wish to give permission for your child to be tested, please complete the online form by clicking on the link below. Should you wish to withdraw permission for testing, please ring reception to inform us in person.

[COVID-19 Testing Consent Form 2021 \(office.com\)](#)

All students are expected to continue with the routine of testing at home throughout the holiday period and upon their return to school.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors, let me wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith
Headteacher