

# Head's Half Term Newsletter

May 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

The images you see on this newsletter are our Balshavian Values. They are at the core of everything that we do as we aim to create students of faith and no faith who will reflect Christ's love in the wider community.



Of our values, **Kindness** is one of the most important. The world seems full of unkindness, aggression, abdication of responsibility for actions and excuses for poor behaviour. I can't control the world, but with the governors of the school we can set the policies and ethos of the school.

In the news we have heard about three young people setting fire to historic buildings in Preston. Closer to home young people in Buckshaw subject to dispersal orders, acts of criminal damage and some horrendous incidents on social media, a number of which have involved the police. It seems that one of the legacies of Covid is a level of selfish unkindness which schools across the country are seeing in some of their young people.

## Re-asserting Kindness and Respect

I want to make some things clear in this half term newsletter:

- **Sanctions for unkindness:**  
Unkindness towards or bullying of others will not be tolerated. Supported by the governors of the school, we will issue the strongest sanctions to ensure that no student thinks it is ever ok to be unkind to someone else.
- **No physical Touching:**  
Despite all that we teach students through our PSHE, assemblies and within the curriculum, we have seen an increase in students being physical with one another. It doesn't matter whether this is invited or otherwise; quite simply there is no reason for a student to touch another student. This rule has been made quite clear to all our Balshavians.



Balshaw's is one place where students know the rules, have clear boundaries and can feel safe. There is nothing new about our expectations and I know that parents will support this. If you feel unable to accept that children should always show kindness to one another and should not invade others' space by physically touching them, then another school may be a more appropriate place for your child's education.

## Whose mobile phone is it?

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A conversation I find that I have often with parents (and I have written to you about this before) is about the monitoring of your child's phone. So far I have not come across any student who pays for their phone contract themselves, it is always parents and the contract is in the parents' name.

I strongly recommend that you reinforce with your child that the phone they use is your phone and that they use it with your permission and that you can look at it at any time. You should prepare to be shocked as the things that some young people send to one-another and the language that they may use are appalling, but it is important that you monitor what they see and what they say.

Social media use on phones is probably the single most negative influence on young people's mental health. Ask any CAMHs worker, teacher, social worker, police officer or GP. Any caring, responsible parent wishing to protect their child will take an active role in regularly monitoring their phone.

## Jubilee Weekend:

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*Gracious God, we give you thanks  
for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,  
and for the example of loving and faithful service  
which she has shown among us.*

*Help us to follow her example of dedication  
and to commit our lives to you and to one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***Amen.***