



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter Holiday. Following my previous letter, I am delighted to be able to inform you that following the cyberattack just before Christmas, all internal IT systems are now fully operational.

However, with regards to the Wisepay system, we need to re-register all the pupils on the Wisepay system in school with their fingerprints before you will be able to see the outstanding balances when you log in. We will do this over the next couple of days, at which point the balance will update and any additional spending from then on will be added to the total. I do understand that these balances will be far in excess of your usual payments, but we politely request that you please pay the balance as soon as you are able to do so. Please note: Pupils will not be able to add any money to their account via our payment machines in school until next week and therefore we ask that pupils pay any money coming into school to the finance office until then.

Secondly, could I politely remind parents of our expectations regarding mobile phones. I would prefer it if pupils did not bring their mobile phone into school at all, as most smartphones now cost hundreds of pounds and it can be very costly for parents if they are damaged, lost or stolen. However, I do understand that many parents would like their child to have their mobile phone with them when they are returning home from school to check that they are safe.

Also, the unmonitored use of mobile phones during the school day can be a terrible distraction for our pupils and it is something we wish to avoid. Therefore, I am asking for your support to send the very clear message to your child that they should not have their mobile phone switched on whilst they are in school unless given explicit permission to do so by their teacher in rare circumstances. Also, they must never contact you via their mobile phone during the school day. If they do feel the need to contact you, they must go to our Pupil Services Office who will contact you on their behalf. If you do need to contact your child with an urgent message, please use school reception who will pass it on as soon as possible. I would really appreciate it if you would reinforce this message to your child at home, as any pupil found using their mobile phone during the school day will have it temporarily confiscated until parents/carers call into school to pick it up.

Thank you for your continued support, it is always very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher