



# The Armthorpe School

A Specialist School in The Arts and Sport



Our Ref: ACo/ANi

14<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Dear Parent / Carers

I write to draw your attention to two matters which are currently causing some concern in school:

## Mobile phones

- As you are aware, students are allowed to bring mobile phones into school on the understanding that they will be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day, including breaks and lunch times. Students who fail to comply with this rule will have their phones confiscated.
- On the first occasion that a mobile phone is confiscated, it will be returned to the student in the Administration Block at the end of the school day.
- On any subsequent occasion, parents will be contacted and asked to collect the phone at their earliest convenience during school working hours, 8.15 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- It is not our intention to inconvenience parents, but the responsibility for ensuring that this does not happen rests squarely with students.

## Facebook

- Last Summer, I wrote to parents about some of the difficulties which have been experienced in school as a result of students' use of Facebook. Used responsibly, social networking via the internet is a harmless and unproblematic form of communication.
- However, the volume and frequency of difficulties which occur in school as a result of irresponsible use of Facebook, in particular, have increased.
- We have no desire to police students' use of Facebook, even if this was possible. That is a job which we will leave to you, the parents. Nevertheless, if the irresponsible use of Facebook caused offence or distress to other members in the school, and this comes to our attention, we will seriously consider taking disciplinary action. In extreme cases, we may involve the police.
- Assemblies have recently been delivered by our Community Police Officer, PC Plumridge, in which students' awareness of responsible use of Facebook has been increased.

As I have said in the past, some parents may not agree with some aspects of school policy, and the areas which I have covered may be a case in point. Nevertheless, I must ask for your support on these matters in order that we can ensure that learning, good order and respect for others in the school are not compromised.

Yours sincerely

Andy Cope  
Headteacher

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Headteacher: Andy Cope BA MEd

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