



Aston Academy

Specialising in Maths & Computing

Executive Principal:
Eunice Newton BEd, BA, MSc

Associate Principals:
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RE: Improving Home / Academy Communication and Feedback from the Mobile Phone Consultation

From September 2016, Aston Academy will be moving over to an electronic communication system called 'Schoolcomms'. This is a system which will allow us to keep in more regular contact with you as parents/carers, by not only sending out text message alerts as we currently do now, but for other correspondence such as monitoring, newsletters, revision information etc, we will be able to send this information via email ensuring that the process is much quicker.

The new system will also allow you to make payments for lunches, trips etc online rather than sending cash or cheques into school and will let you book, activities such as, consultation evening appointments with teaching staff on line. We have reviewed the package and believe it will significantly improve our communications with you.

In order for this system to be most effective we are asking that you provide us with your most up to date mobile telephone numbers (if they are different to the ones on our system) and a maximum of two current email addresses. By doing this we can then ensure that you receive information both regularly and timely. It will also be important to contact us should any of the information change.

If you do not have an email facility then please be assured that we will continue to send information out via the post.

If you have any further questions then please let us know. In September we will contact you again to give you further information, especially about setting up the on line payment system.

In line with this could we ask that you complete the slip attached, returning this via reception, no later than Friday 22nd April 2016.

Can we also take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the consultation regarding student use of mobile phones. The overwhelming response from parents/carers is that they would like students to be able to bring phones to school but do believe that to support learning, mobile phones should be switched off and in bags during all lesson times. As a result of this we have shared with students our approach to mobile phone usage: -

- All phones (and ear phones) should be in bags during lesson times and in between.
- If a phone is used in class a warning will be given.

Repeated use of phones within class will result in either the phone being removed by the teacher and kept for the duration of the lesson, the phone being removed and the student sent on faculty referral or the phone being removed by senior staff / Learning Progress Managers and kept until 3pm. You will be informed if there is significant concern about your child and their use of mobile phones during learning time.

Thank you for your support in this matter. We hope this clarifies our approach to this issue.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Hibberd, Associate Principal



All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



Reply slip to be returned to the school reception no later than Friday 22nd April 2016

Name of student: _____
(please print)

Tutor Group: _____

Mobile number 1: _____

**(contact's
name/relationship)** _____

Mobile number 2: _____

**(contact's
name/relationship)** _____

E mail address 1: _____

**(contact's
name/relationship)** _____

E mail address 2: _____

**(contact's
name/relationship)** _____