



Clacton County High School

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Principal: Neil Gallagher

Our Reference: TAYLET12/lh

21st December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

At the end of each full term, I write to parents to wish you all well and to update you on any important issues and reminders.

Firstly, I thought I would let you know how the second half of the term has gone in regards to mobile phone use on the school site. Overall, there has been a very positive response from both parents and students. We have not quite achieved a mobile phone and headphone free zone yet, but there are very few phones visible around school and a lot more conversations happening at break and lunchtimes between students. Incidents resulting from social media issues have greatly reduced. When students are seen with their phones they are requested to turn them off and put them away, repeat 'offenders' or anyone refusing to comply with the request, are sanctioned in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning policy; an updated policy is available on the school website. As a result of such a positive response we have decided to continue with the current strategy and review again at Easter.

To tie in with the restrictions on mobile phones and to ensure that parents are able to contact students after school when clubs, activities and sanctions are in progress, we have extended our switchboard opening hours until 4.30pm.

A reminder to all parents regarding school uniform. CCHS is very proud of its identity within the community, we have high expectations in regards to uniform and we rely on parental support to ensure these standards are maintained. Coats or sweatshirts must be removed when entering the school buildings; students will be asked to take them off, repeated requests will result in the coat being removed for safekeeping until the end of the day. In regards to hairstyles and hair colour; sensible hairstyles and natural hair colours are our expectations. Students will be requested to correct and/or remove any colours before returning to normal timetabled lessons.

Bringing drinks into school - some students have started to bring in two litre bottles of fizzy drink, for their own personal consumption. We try to encourage our students to be conscious of the implications of unhealthy lifestyles. Once again, please can I ask for your support; if your child wishes to bring a drink other than water, please ensure that it is no larger than a 500ml size bottle. Students found in possession of a large quantity of fizzy drink will have it removed. However, should they wish to do so, parents can collect the item, otherwise it will be disposed of at the end of the school day.

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Now to happier news, I am delighted to be able to inform you of the tremendous success of our annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Each year, we collect non-perishable items and small treats to pack into shoeboxes ready to deliver to the residents of a sheltered housing complex in Clacton called Holly Court. With your support and generosity, this year, the school foyer was stacked full of wrapped shoeboxes, surrounding our Christmas tree, which were delivered by some of our students on Tuesday, 18th December. The ladies and gentlemen are always so grateful to receive the gifts, so on behalf of the residents, a massive thank you, to you and your children for such thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity, many cards and letters of thanks were received from them.

To continue with this theme, the final day of term on Friday, 21st December was a non-uniform day, students were asked to wear a Christmas jumper, in exchange for a small contribution. The fund raising was in aid of the Clacton Rotary Club to help to support their Christmas Day lunch for local lonely and vulnerable elderly people, held at CCHS. This is an extremely worthwhile cause. Each year, this dedicated team of volunteers give up their own family time on Christmas Day to provide sustenance and some comfort and joy to others less fortunate, they are an amazing group of people.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, a healthy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to welcoming all our students back to school on Monday, 7th January 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Taylor', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

C TAYLOR
Head of School