

5.11.21

Re. Tik-Tok Incidents This Week

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past 2 days a number of videos of school staff have appeared on Tik-Tok public accounts, which have been viewed by hundreds of people. The content ranges from inappropriate, to offensive and at worst defamatory and potentially breaking the law. These videos have been created by our own students. Some images have been taken within the Academy by students with their phones.

The videos have been extremely upsetting for many staff and have damaged the reputation of the Academy. I am very grateful for the numerous emails and contacts from parents, supporting our staff and sharing their shock at these incidents.

We are taking the following actions:

1. Students responsible will be dealt with by the Academy's behaviour policy. Please ask your children not to view or comment on any videos.
2. The police have been informed and will be investigating whether the actions warrant criminal investigation.
3. We will be implementing a **total mobile phone ban** for students starting on **Monday 8th November 2021**. This will last until Christmas, during which time we will carry out a full consultation on our Mobile Phone Policy, to decide whether we will make this a permanent change. This consultation will include parent, student and staff input.
- 4.

Please support us in making the details of the ban very clear to your child over the weekend:

Mobile Phone (and headphones/airpods) Rules from Monday 8th November 2021

- If a phone or earphones are seen or heard, they will be confiscated. We will operate a 'See it, Hear it, Take it' approach.
- There are no exceptions and students will not be asked to use them in lessons.
- If an item is confiscated, students can collect from the school office at the end of the day.
- If a student shows defiance when asked to hand over an item, they will have a detention and parents will be asked to collect the item from the school office. This will also apply for repeat offences.
- If a student refuses to hand over an item, they could receive a Fixed Term Exclusion.

NB. If your child uses ear protectors, please make this clear to their Head of Year, so they may have an exemption for this.

The vast majority of our students are highly responsible and respectful, but I am sure you understand the need for these measures at this time. Thank you as ever for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul Spyropoulos

Principal of Wixams Academy