



# Houghton Kepier Sports College

An Academy



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Principal Mrs Nicola Cooper BA (Hons) NPQH

23 January 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

January has flown by and the Christmas holiday seems to have fallen into the distant past. We have exams upon us and I am pleased to confirm that Yr11 are progressing well and are on target to achieve the best results in the history of the HKSC. This is thanks to the resilience, determination and support of parents, learners and staff who have worked together to achieve such success.

Houghton Kepier Sports College An Academy is at a natural point in its development to re-assess its 'brand image' and look at the perceptions of the Academy within the local and wider community. We will be looking at all aspects of the Academy including its name, uniform, image and ways in which we communicate. Events and updates will be posted on the website and we will be inviting you to give your views on ways forward.

You may have also noticed the high profile that the Academy has recently gained in the local press. I am keen to promote what we do well including all the exceptional sporting achievements, community events and outstanding successes that quite rightly should be proudly publicised.

We are in the process of consultation with regards to adding a sixth form to the Academy. We will know if we have been successful in July and hope to develop sixth form provision for September 2013. More information is available on the website. I know we have had outstanding parental support in the past and once again I ask for your letters of support.

We intend to support young talented footballers by developing a Football Academy in September 2012 starting with Yr 7 learners (current Yr6). This initiative is fully supportive of our ethos at HKSC and will be delivered in partnership with Improtech Soccer (Martin Scott, ex SAFC professional).

To maintain our high standards of behaviour, achievement and attainment, I would like to reiterate the Academy's policy on the use of mobile phones which can cause distraction from learning, create issues with behaviour and can have costly implications if damaged. Many of our learners gained a new mobile phone for Christmas and are keen to use it within school hours. Unfortunately this is not possible. This week learners will be given a strong warning of the consequences if they are seen with a mobile phone in school. Next week mobile phones will be confiscated and *you* will need to come into school to pick it up. Please do read the attached policy and I thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Yours faithfully

Nicola Cooper  
Principal

## **Houghton Kepier Sports College**

### **Learner mobile phone and electronic devices policy**

#### **Rationale**

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are now a feature of modern society and most of our learners own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- the high value of many phones and devices
- the integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection and data protection issues
- the potential increase in the number of cyber -bullying incidents
- the potential to use the phone e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode which disrupts learning

On safety grounds is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school. Therefore it is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below however we do not allow other electronic devices.

#### **Policy**

1. Phones must not be used in school for any purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, surfing the internet, taking photos, checking the time, taking videos).
2. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view in the learner's bag.
3. Phones must be switched off and handed in during examinations.
4. In the case of trips, visits, exchanges and other off-site activities, phones and other electronic devices are not allowed unless specifically permitted by the teacher in charge.
5. In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, learners should seek staff permission to use a phone and report to their year office to do so. Equally any important message from a parent will be passed on to the learner from the school office.
6. Learners who ignore this policy and use a mobile or other unauthorised device without permission will be required to give their phone/device to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it subsequently from the school office.
7. Upon confiscation the member of staff will place the phone/device in an envelope and lock it away. Staff will take the phone/device to the school office as soon as is practically possible but certainly by 3.00 p.m. The phone will be available to collect by a parent or carer from the school office at the end of the day.
8. On receipt of the phone the school office will contact the pastoral team who will, whenever possible, contact parents to let them know the phone has been confiscated.
9. Failure to hand the phone/device over to a member of staff when requested will be treated as a Stage 4 and the learner sent to the time out room.
10. If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, learners will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.

#### **Responsibility for mobile phones/electronic devices:**

School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones which are in the learners' possession. It is the responsibility of parents and learners to ensure mobile phones/devices are properly used and insured.