



29<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## RE: Mobile phones and instant messaging

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the last few weeks there have been a number of serious incidents of bullying and fighting. Without exception, all of these incidents have involved instant messaging in some way. What is said in these conversations creates conflict and upset at school.

Many students now have Blackberry phones and communicate almost continually with them via their instant messaging system Blackberry Messenger (BBM). Students feel that they can say things on BBM that they would not normally say face to face. As a result, the content of the conversations is often far too mature for Year 7's and the language used is derogatory and inappropriate.

In order to help us secure the safety and well being of all of the students, we would suggest that you do not allow your child to have the BBM function on their phone (this can be taken off by calling the service provider and may make their call plan cheaper). If you do still want them to be allowed access we suggest that you monitor it very closely, asking to see the conversations they are having every evening and questioning anything that seems unkind or unsavoury. The same advice would stand for all content on your child's phone.

We appreciate your support on this matter and hope that it will contribute towards keeping the students safe and happy.

Yours sincerely,

*C. Williams*

Miss C. Williams  
Head of Year 7

