

# Royton & Crompton E-ACT Academy

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7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in ensuring that our academy continues to deliver the very best educational experiences and outcomes for your children. With your support, we continue to raise the bar and insist on the very best in all that we do.

As we now look forward to September, I would like to send some reminders regarding standards, expectations, uniform and equipment, as many parents look to buy their supplies over the summer break. This is alongside sharing some new and exciting initiatives and updates for when we return. This information will be shared with you over the next two weeks of term.

## Working together to support our students

We firmly believe that young people have the right to attend an outstanding school within their local community. For this to happen, we must all be relentless in our drive to ensure that our students make strong progress, enjoy their learning, achieve results that will prepare them for further education and provide them with the opportunities to succeed in their future careers. This is all the more important against a national backdrop of more challenging GCSEs and higher expectations.

As we have said in previous correspondence, the importance of an effective and respectful partnership between home and school is vital. If parents and the school work in unison, demanding the same high standards in all aspects of behaviour and academic achievement, then great learning will follow.

As an academy, we appreciate there has been some recent concerns raised in regards to communication when trying to contact school. The switchboard and school phone line can, at times, be extremely busy which may lead to you not being able to speak directly to a member of staff. To support all parents/carers, we will now be adjusting our phone lines and messages system over the summer to enable all parents to contact pastoral leaders via mobile or email for any urgent concerns or queries. Please see below:

## Communication Pastoral Teams from September 2023

Year 7 Team - Mr L Topham Year Leader [lee.topham@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:lee.topham@rca.e-act.org.uk)  
Mr M Collinge Pastoral Leader [michael.collinge@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:michael.collinge@rca.e-act.org.uk) MOB: 07395605253

Year 8 Team - Mr A Ali Year Leader [arris.ali@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:arris.ali@rca.e-act.org.uk)  
Mr M Kershaw Pastoral Leader [michael.kershaw@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:michael.kershaw@rca.e-act.org.uk) MOB:07523930971

Year 9 Team - Mr M Olsen Year Leader [michael.olsen@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:michael.olsen@rca.e-act.org.uk)  
Miss D Reed Pastoral Leader [dawn.reed@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:dawn.reed@rca.e-act.org.uk) MOB:07523930967



Year 10 Team - Mr P Prendergast Year Leader [paul.prendergast@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:paul.prendergast@rca.e-act.org.uk)  
Mr C Wood Pastoral Leader [cody.wood@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:cody.wood@rca.e-act.org.uk) MOB:07523930973

Year 11 Team - Mrs S Cavanagh Year Leader [sarah.cavanagh@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:sarah.cavanagh@rca.e-act.org.uk)  
Mr P Noon Pastoral Leader [phil.noon@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:phil.noon@rca.e-act.org.uk) MOB:07523930976

Equally, if there are any additional concerns then please follow all the information on the website [Contact details - Royton and Crompton Academy \(e-act.org.uk\)](http://Contact%20details%20-%20Royton%20and%20Crompton%20Academy%20(e-act.org.uk)) or email the school mailbox direct at [ERACA.enquiry@e-act.org.uk](mailto:ERACA.enquiry@e-act.org.uk)



## Toilets in the Academy

I would like to reassure all parents/carers that there are ample toilets in the academy and in all Academy buildings that are open all day to enable students to use them as and when required. All students who have a toilet pass are able to use the toilets as and when required. Toilets on the upper floors are only closed when we have our split break and lunch to enable learning to continue without disruption at key points in the day.

## Maintaining Excellent Attendance and Punctuality

**Great Attendance = Better Academic Performance.**

It is no surprise that those students who have excellent attendance and punctuality make far better progress and achieve better grades. There is an expectation that your child will have 100% attendance barring serious illness. For example, even 97% attendance equates on average to a child missing half a day of school every two weeks. This is roughly 10 days missed over an academic year; a significant amount of learning time lost. Therefore, every student should aim for 100% attendance as this will ensure they do not miss any learning. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and they arrive on time for the start of the school day by 8.30am.

Whilst the academy accepts that there are rare times when absence cannot be avoided, these occasions must be kept to a minimum.

In line with the national directive, the school will not authorise holidays in school time. Where attendance drops below an acceptable threshold, parents will receive penalty notices and may be asked to attend court to explain their child's absences. We make no apologies for this hard-line approach: regular attendance is one of the key factors in ensuring that children make progress at school and it's our duty to safeguard our students' learning. Please support your child by ensuring that they attend school every day.

## Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Mobile phones have changed the way students interact with the world and, if used effectively, they can be a powerful educational device. However, as an Academy we believe that there are more useful ways we can harness technology to help our students learn and make progress.

Mobile phones can be extremely disruptive to the social and academic development of students through the addictive nature of some games and apps. Also, through the damage to mental health caused to young people by social networks and through the interruptions to learning that are so often caused by mobile devices. These interruptions can happen in lessons, where pupils find it difficult to concentrate if they have a mobile phone on them, and also outside lessons where mobile communication is replacing face-to-face communication.

It is for these reasons that we will be continuing our ban on mobile phones and all smart watches from use in the Academy.

This means that students must not be seen with mobile phones from the moment they enter the Academy building in the morning to the time they leave the building at the end of the school day. This includes during both break and lunchtime.

If a student is seen with a mobile phone in the Academy, a staff member will confiscate that phone. Students must be aware that refusing to comply with this request will lead to the involvement of the Year Team and/or Senior Leadership Team and further consequences will be given in accordance with the Academy Behaviour Policy.

When a mobile phone is confiscated, we will only return it to a parent/carer. This system will also be used for smart watches should they be used as a communication device.

For students who have a phone confiscated more than twice in a term, a meeting with parents will be arranged and the student will be expected to leave the phone at home for the remainder of the term or hand in the phone at 8.40 am every morning. Students who fail to meet this condition will have their phone confiscated for the remainder of the half-term.

Students should also be aware that wearing headphones will be seen as equivalent to using a mobile phone. Students with headphones will have their headphones confiscated along with their mobile phone.

## Encouraging Extra-Curricular Activities

Enrichment and extra-curricular activities exist to provide educational experiences that may not otherwise be provided to our students in their academic courses. Royton and Crompton Academy is dedicated to ensuring that our students are offered a variety of extra-curricular activities that appeal to our students.

Enrichment is a critical part of student's holistic development. They provide an opportunity to showcase leadership skills and community involvement. Examples can include coding, sports clubs and activities, starting a podcast, pottery, arts and crafts, rock school and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and many more!

We are privileged to work in partnership with the Manchester United Foundation. The School Partnership Officer (SPO) supports an extra-curricular provision with Sports Leadership Qualifications, a safe space youth initiative and football for all opportunities.

## Stay Safe over Summer

As we look towards the summer holidays, assemblies will be delivered over the next few days to raise awareness of students staying safe over the summer. In the assemblies, messages will be given out about the dangers of too much sun; preventing fires on the moorlands; railway and tram safety and swimming in the canals and quarry jumping. We have also reminded students about the dangers of drinking alcohol, using e-cigarettes (vaping) along with e-safety/online awareness.

Whilst we would like our students to have fun over the summer, we also have a responsibility to ensure that they are educated on the importance of looking after themselves and others and we hope that you will also share these messages with them. If there are any safeguarding concerns over the summer, please email our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Jackson [leela.jackson@rca.e-act.org.uk](mailto:leela.jackson@rca.e-act.org.uk) or call on 07542030227.

We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A. Atkinson  
Headteacher