



Friday 4 April 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Adult(s) with Parental Responsibility,

Thank you, as always, to our students and families for ongoing hard work and support to make each term a success. Please find below our key notices for the coming Summer term 2025.

### **1. Misuse of Social Media and Mobile Phones in School**

This term we have seen an increase in the number of young people using social media in a harmful way - recording and filming others without their consent, posting images on social media platforms that are unkind and, on occasion, malicious and illegal. Some students have created group-chats, at home or outside school, which cyberbully their peers and lead to face to face conflict in school. The school takes bullying and the misuse of social media very seriously and students involved have been suspended and victims of the abuse have been supported.

#### **What is the school doing?**

At school, students have assemblies, workshops and lessons about safe and appropriate use of social media. Students are not allowed to use digital devices at any time during the school day. **Digital devices (mobile phones, airpods, smart watches) are to be 'off and out of sight' at all times during the school day including break and lunch-time.** The reason for this ban is to protect students and staff from the potential risks mentioned above and enable students to focus on their learning and the 'real time' opportunities available in school. Students found using digital devices will be required to hand this to a member of staff to prevent any further use, distractions or disruption. Repeated breach of this rule could lead to further sanctions including suspension from school in line with our Behaviour Policy.

#### **How can parents help?**

As parents you have an important role to play in talking to your daughter about the importance of being safe and kind online. To ensure their safety and well-being you should monitor their online activity and be aware of the platforms they are using. If you would like to know more about how you can support your daughter to be safe on-line, our school offers training for parents to support them with this as part of our status as an accredited National Online Safety School.

Please use the following link <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/sarah-bonnell-school> to complete the annual parent online safety course. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I believe that by working together we can help young people develop a more healthy and balanced relationship with social media.

### **2. Spring Holiday and Summer Term Dates**

I hope those families who were celebrating the end of the holy month of Ramadan had a joyous and blessed Eid and that those families celebrating Easter in the holidays ahead have a wonderful celebration. The **Spring Term ends on Friday 4 April 2025** with students being dismissed at the slightly earlier time of

**Headteacher: Rae Potter**

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12:20. The **Summer Term begins for all students on Tuesday 22 April 2025** at the usual time of 08:25.

### **3. Attendance and Absence During Term Time**

Students have excellent attendance at Sarah Bonnell School and this helps them learn and achieve . Please remember that absence requests falling immediately before or after a school holiday will be considered for authorisation only upon presentation of supporting documentation. This includes medical evidence for illness or, in the case of flight delays, written confirmation from the airline demonstrating that the originally booked travel would not have resulted in an absence from school. Requests for absences related to holidays or similar events will not be authorised.

### **4. Celebrating Another Successful Term**

Students and staff have achieved a great many successes over the Spring Term and I encourage you to read all about these in the latest edition of the Sarah Bonnell News ([SBS News - Spring Term 2025](#)) which you can also find on the school website.

### **5. No Excuses - Promoting Our High Standards of Behaviour**

The school will be launching its new 'No Excuses' posters in the Summer Term. The posters are part of a new initiative to support all students and staff to work together to ensure our high standards of behaviour and engagement are clear to all members of our community. Please speak to your daughter about these expectations and support her to achieve these every day.

### **6. ParentPay - Account Balances and Upcoming Changes**

We would like to inform you that we will be moving to a new payment system from **Monday 1st September 2025** and ParentPay will no longer be in use. To ensure a smooth transition, we kindly ask that all balances on the ParentPay account are cleared by **Friday 18th July 2025**. Balances will not be transferred to the new system, please ensure outstanding balances are utilised and your account is nil.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact on 0208 534 6791 or alternatively you can email [info@sarahbonnell.ncltrust.net](mailto:info@sarahbonnell.ncltrust.net).

We wish you a restful break and a joyful Easter to those who will be celebrating. We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school on **Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 08:25**.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Rae Potter**  
Headteacher

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