

RRB/MRR/AAM

March 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you regarding a number of issues.

First, we have reviewed our policy on the Student use of mobile phones in school. This has had to come about because of increasing misuse including using phones to take unsolicited photographs of other students or staff. This can be a very serious safeguarding issue and with ever increasing access to facebook etc. via phones, we, along with other schools, are increasingly dealing with bullying incidents that are using this technology.

Clearly, however, the vast majority of our students are very responsible, use phones appropriately and we do not want to impose a ban which will prevent a perfectly appropriate usage.

All students have been informed this week that on returning in the summer term the following will apply:

- (1) Phones, as now, must not be out or switched on in lessons including tutor time. If they are, the phone will be removed and a parent or carer will need to collect it. The student will serve an automatic 1 hour detention in the first instance.
- (2) Phones can be used before school, at break and lunchtimes. However, if they are being used inappropriately – ie. the taking of photos without permission, the phone will be taken. Students must not have earphones incorporated in their school uniform eg. having the wire tucked into shirts so that only the earphones are visible.

Again, it will be for a parent or carer to collect.

The punishment for this behaviour will be determined by the seriousness of the incident but may well include at its most extreme referral to the police, CEOPs and an exclusion.

I would ask for your full support in ensuring your child understands the seriousness of this and is equally alerted to informing staff if they feel compromised by any behaviour of this nature.

Secondly, and to some degree related, you will know that using social network sites such as facebook in school is banned. However, some students are trying to access the sites by using proxy sites which they believe are 'safe'. I include with this letter information from our IT manager about the problems this can lead to. It shows one advert that encourages the students to go on to the site but we also explain that many of these sites are used by hackers to take personal data which they can then pass on. Clearly, if your child is using sites like this at home personal details including those of your own may be at risk.

We have informed all students about this and through our ICT checking systems are able to identify students who are trying to use proxy sites in school. Students have been told that in the first instance they will be banned from the internet for one day. This will be increased if they repeatedly offend.

Again, we want to encourage all students to use technologies safely and to have access to the wonderful opportunities such technologies provide.

We believe working together with you is the best way to ensure this. If you would like further information on facebook or other social networks we have a related parent booklet on our website.

Due to popular demand from students we will once again allow a plain white (no logo) polo shirt to be worn in place of the white shirt and tie. Students will be allowed to wear a plain white polo shirt, which are available from around £1.50 from supermarkets and other retailers, from Monday 6th June which is after the half term break. We have again gone for this polo shirt option so that parent/carers do not have to spend large sums of money on this uniform. Parents are reminded that plain black shoes must be worn to school and that pumps or trainers, even if plain black, cannot be worn as uniform.

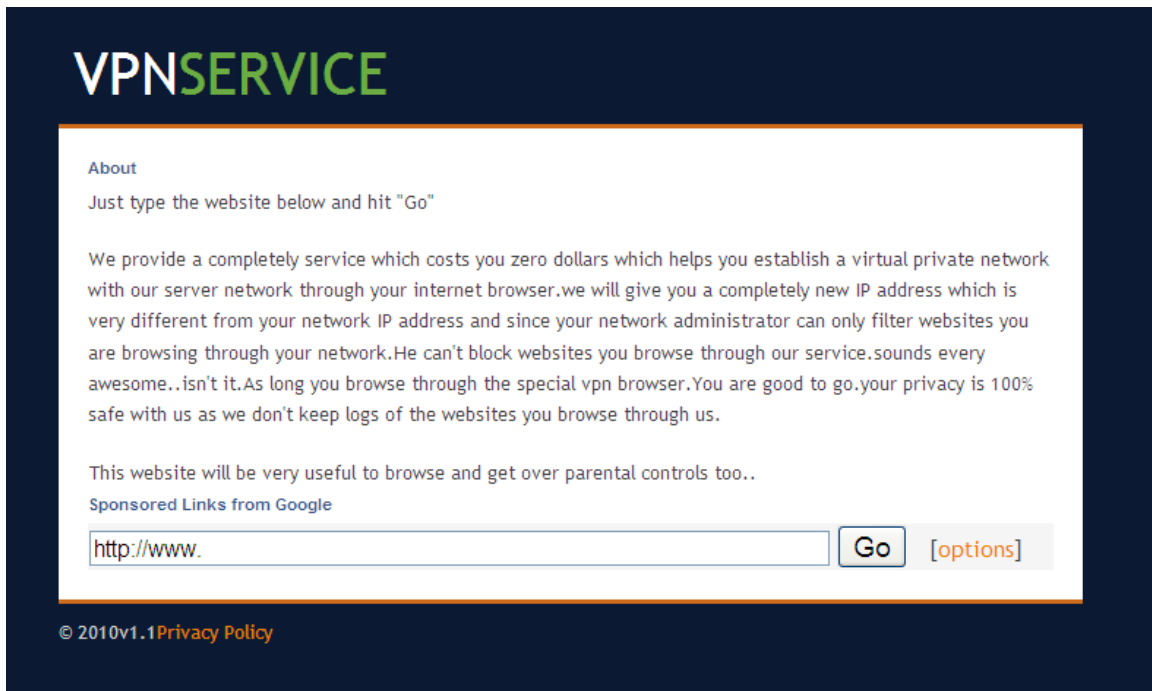
Thank you for endorsing the schools efforts in support of your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

R.D.I. Burman
Headteacher

Notice to Students on the use of Proxy websites

Many students are going to PROXY sites like the one below to get access to Facebook and Youtube, two sites which are blocked for student use. Proxy websites are not VPN's (Virtual private networks) they are not safe and secure and do not put you directly on to a website, they are used by criminals to gather information which they can sell.



The screenshot shows a website titled "VPNSERVICE" with a dark blue background. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

About
Just type the website below and hit "Go"

We provide a completely service which costs you zero dollars which helps you establish a virtual private network with our server network through your internet browser. we will give you a completely new IP address which is very different from your network IP address and since your network administrator can only filter websites you are browsing through your network. He can't block websites you browse through our service. sounds every awesome... isn't it. As long you browse through the special vpn browser. You are good to go. your privacy is 100% safe with us as we don't keep logs of the websites you browse through us.

This website will be very useful to browse and get over parental controls too..

Sponsored Links from Google

http://www.

© 2010v1.1 Privacy Policy

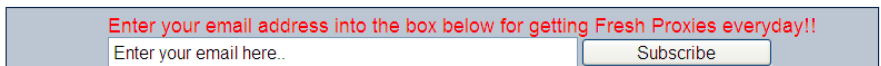
Once you type in the address you want to go to; like Facebook in this case, you are given what looks like the log on form from the Facebook page as below.

URL: [\[home\]](#) [\[clear cookies\]](#)

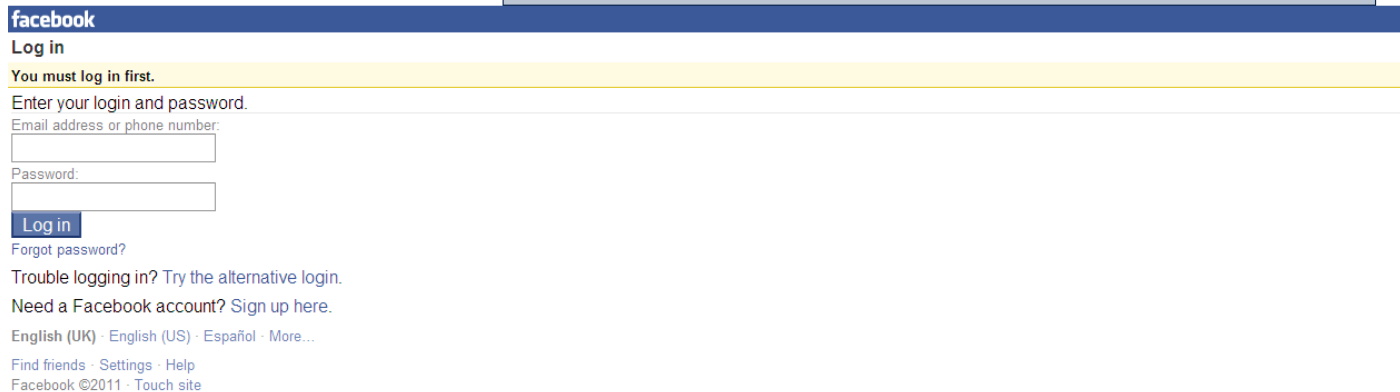
Options: Encode URL Encode Page Allow Cookies Remove Scripts Remove Objects



Two purple banners for "Winterhill School Web Filter" are shown. The left banner has the text "Winterhill School Web Filter" and "Keeping your Internet browsing free from unsuitable content." The right banner has the text "Winterhill School Web Filter" and "Keeping your Internet browsing free from unsuitable content." and includes a circular logo with a mountain and the text "Winterhill School".



A grey box with a red border containing the text "Enter your email address into the box below for getting Fresh Proxies everyday!!" and an input field with the placeholder "Enter your email here.." and a "Subscribe" button.



The screenshot shows the Facebook login page. At the top, it says "facebook" in a blue bar. Below that, it says "Log in" and "You must log in first." The main form area has the text "Enter your login and password." and "Email address or phone number:" followed by an input field. Below that is "Password:" followed by another input field. A "Log in" button is at the bottom of the form. Below the form, there are links for "Forgot password?", "Trouble logging in? Try the alternative login.", and "Need a Facebook account? Sign up here." At the bottom, there are language options: "English (UK) · English (US) · Español · More..." and footer text: "Find friends · Settings · Help" and "Facebook ©2011 · Touch site".

This form is not a direct link to Facebook it is an in between site which keeps your details then forwards them on to Facebook so you can log on. Your username and password are now in the

hands of the people running the website and in most cases this information is sold to hackers and anyone who is willing to pay, or used by the website themselves to get onto your Facebook page and get to all your pictures and details.