

March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Mobile Phones and Devices in School: Year 8 and Year 9**

As you are aware, our stance on mobile phones and devices is that they must not be used or seen whilst your child is on the school premises. All phones and electronic devices should be turned off and stored in your child's school bag during the school day.

Research illustrates that addiction to 'smartphones' is unhealthy and evidence shows that a break from screen time during the school day benefits students. Safeguarding students and staff whilst in our school environment from unwanted photographs, recording and videoing without permission and unkind or inappropriate comments made on social media, remains a priority.

We have trialled successfully during the first half of the academic year with the Year 7 cohort, students handing in their phones at the start of the school day to their tutor, who then stores the phones safely in a securely locked location. Mobile phones are then returned to students at the end of a school day during afternoon registration. This initiative has significantly reduced the number of online safeguarding incidents and improved students' focus when in the classroom setting.

Moving forward in the Summer Term, on our return from the Easter Break, this initiative will be rolled out to all Year 8 and Year 9 students. Students have received a series of information sessions within tutor time outlining the rationale for the change in expectation. The sessions have outlined the following:

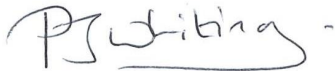
- 1) After the Easter break mobile phones should be handed in at the start of the day to your child's tutor.
- 2) Any phone that is not handed in and is seen, heard or its use suspected, (this includes listening to music), will be confiscated and only returned upon meeting with you. This includes phones on display in pockets.

*continued overleaf/...*

- 3) The restriction is in place at all times when students are on the school premises, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the school day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds, handed into their tutor during tutor time, and subsequently not accessed until they have left the school site.
- 4) For repeat offences, students will be banned from bringing their mobile phones onto the school premises.
- 5) Should students wish to contact parents at the end of the school day with any concerns or for collection following being engaged in an extracurricular activity, then they are asked to report to the student hatch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child does not use their mobile phone at all whilst on school site.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Whiting', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs Whiting  
Senior Deputy Headteacher