



15th April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I do hope you all had a good Easter break and welcome back to the summer term.

I thought I would write to you all as we start the new term with our revised mobile phone policy.

We had been talking about it a lot in school in the 2 weeks before the holiday, and some questions were raised. I hope this note provides some additional clarity for all.

Before I set out the reminder, I wanted to share that we are hopeful that everyone makes the right choices regarding our phone policy. It has been created with the best interests of our young people in mind.

All years

Students attending an after school club will be able to access their phones after school for checking bus/train/pick up times and to communicate with their family/friend for collection or the walk home. Students would not be able to use their phone for any other purpose. Students should ask the member of staff running the club for permission to use their phone and state the reason for the use.

There will be boxes available for students to hand their phone in during the school day should they wish. We are mindful that some students are worried about leaving their phone unattended in their bag and some are concerned that they may struggle to resist the temptation to look at their phone during the day. Students can use voluntary phone storage should they wish. The phones will be kept in individual wallets and held securely in school. Students would collect their phones at the end of the day.

Smart watches can be worn, but must not mirror phone activity during the day or be internet enabled. In short, as long as they only operate as a watch they can be worn. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the watch only operates as a watch and is not internet or Wi-Fi enabled during the day. Should a student use the Smart facilities

of the watch during the day, we will treat that in the same way as a student using their phone.

For year 7

Handing in phones as they have been doing will continue. No phone use once students arrive on the school site.

Year 8 to 11

Phones must be switched off and away in school bags (not blazer pockets) from when students arrive on site and until they leave.

Year 11 are permitted to take their phones with them (and use them) if they choose to **leave** the site for lunch. Phones must be switched off and put away upon return to school.

Sixth form

Sixth form students may use their phones in the sixth form study centre only. At all other times, the phones should be away in their bags before they enter the school site and until they leave.

Sixth form students may use their tablet in class for taking notes if they wish, but they are not permitted to access messaging services or social media. In short, the tablet must not be used as a phone replacement.

My thanks to our whole school community as we implement our new policy and come into line with most secondary schools across the country and in line with the 2024 guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education.

Best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.