



18 July 2018

Headteacher: Mr R Harrison

Dear Parent/Carer

After a lot of discussion and debate, we have felt it necessary to amend our policy on student use of mobile phones in school. You will no doubt be aware of the ongoing discussion around adolescent mental health in the media, as well as the recent NHS diagnosis of mobile phone addiction, and realise that as adults we have a fundamental responsibility to ensure our children develop in a happy and healthy way. Limiting screen time is a key part of this as there is increasingly more evidence to suggest that too much time spent on digital devices has a negative mental, social and physical impact.

With this in mind there appears to be no reason why mobile phones should be used in school unless for a specific educational activity. It is worrying to see that most of our students spend most of their free time staring into their mobile phone screen when not in a lesson, even whilst eating at lunchtime.

Although we wouldn't propose that students are not allowed to carry phones (as we appreciate that as parents and carers there may be times when you want to send them a text message, for example about a change in after school arrangements), we do feel that a complete ban from personal use in the building will help them to develop their social skills in a more productive and positive way.

Therefore, from September, there will be no student use of mobile phones within the school building unless for a specific learning activity carried out in a lesson under the supervision of a member of staff. Students who use a mobile phone within the building will have their phone confiscated, in the first instance to be returned at the end of the day. If they persist in this, further sanctions will apply and parents/carers will need to come in to pick the device up from reception. Students will still be able to use a mobile device in the playground should they so wish.

I hope you will support us in implementing this important change to school policy.

Yours faithfully

Richard Harrison
Headteacher