

June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Mobile Phones

As a College we continue on our journey to raise the standards and expectations of both our staff and students. We are making some important changes to our mobile phone policy. ***As of Monday 28th June, students will no longer be permitted to use mobile phones on the school site.*** This is in line with most schools and best practice.

We recognise that a mobile phone is in the interests of safety for the journey to and from College that students may carry phones in their bags. Mobile phones are not banned from the College however we do restrict the use of electronic devices due to their impact on student learning and therefore they must be switched off before entering the College site in the morning and should not be turned on again until they exit the school site at the end of the day.

We believe that in order to enable quality first teaching and learning the restriction of mobile phones are important for the following reasons:

- To reduce screen time, which is linked to depression
- To help tackle bullying on social media
- Less distraction in lessons
- Mobile phone use can be habitual and students need to be supported to manage their use
- Poor behaviour linked to inappropriate use of phones

The expectations will be that whilst on the school site all student electronic devices (including earphones, headphones etc.) must be in bags and switched off at all times. These devices must not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site. Students will be given permission to use their phone (under supervision) if required for emergency purposes, such as a medical need. We operate a 'see it, hear it, you lose it' procedure and phones will be confiscated immediately and stored securely in a safe if our expectations are not adhered to.

Parents/carers will be asked to collect it from the main school reception between 3.15-4.30pm.

This message is being conveyed to students through assemblies and their tutors. We appreciate that this is a significant change but we strongly believe that it will be a significant change for the better.

In the event of emergency:

Contact our Reception team on 01752 556065 who will be able to assist you. If your child is wishing to speak with you during the day they can see their pastoral team or visit one of our receptions.

We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. However, mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in school such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Here at Stoke Damerel we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally. This development is just as important as any academic progress or examination grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can best be done by talking to each other, interacting and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones.

Thank you as always for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Anita Frier
Principal