

Monday 4 February 2019



Community College

Dear Parent / Carer

After careful and considerable consultation we have taken the decision to put a **restriction** on the use of mobile phones and devices here at College because of the impact on student learning. The reasons for this include:

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

Students have been informed during assembly today and this will begin tomorrow morning (Tuesday 5th February).

To ensure that the policy is clear, the school website is being updated to reflect how the policy will be implemented, although the basic principles are listed below.

Between the hours of 8.35 am - 3.05 pm all electronic devices (including earphones, headphones etc.) must be in bags and switched off. These devices must not be seen or heard and they must not be used in any building.

The only exception is: Outside at break or lunch only.

Staff at the College have the discretion to permit students to use electronic devices such as their phone in a lesson as a learning resource only.

Students will be given permission to use their phone (**under supervision**) if required for emergency purposes, such as a medical need.

A 'We see it, we hear it, you lose it' procedure will be followed, with phones confiscated immediately and stored securely in a safe.

CONFISCATION 1. The device can be collected by the student after 3.05pm at Student Reception from a member of the Leadership Team.

CONFISCATION 2. The device will be returned to parents only, who will be required to come to the College reception to collect the device by a senior member of staff after 3.05pm.

Executive Principal Miss A Frier BSc (Hons), M.Ed

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FURTHER CONFISCATIONS will result in students having to hand in the device at the start of each day and may lead to the College withdrawing the right for a student to bring phones or other devices onto the College site.

If a student refuses to hand the phone over to a member of staff, a member of the Leadership Team will be called. If the student still refuses to hand the phone over, they will be placed in isolation for 24 hours (school day only) and parents contacted.

Your child is allowed to have a phone or headphones for the journey to and from school which supports parental concerns regarding safety. If you wish to get a message to your child, please do so via our main reception - in the same way that it runs in primary schools.

We would ask that you discuss this fully with your child so that they are fully aware of the restrictions in place, and I thank you for your support.

A summary of our consultation can be found on our website, along with a link to MP Nick Gibb's view on mobile phones in school. Can I emphasise that this is a restriction not an outright ban. However, should students not follow this policy, we may have to reconsider our stance on banning mobile phones in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Frier". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Miss A Frier
Executive Principal