



Tuesday 19th November

Dear Parents and Students,

Reminder: Mobile Phone Use and New Policy on Smart Watches

I hope this letter finds you well. In light of recent media coverage I am writing to remind you of our current school policy regarding mobile phone use and to inform you of an important update to our technology rules.

Mobile Phone Use

To ensure a focused and respectful learning environment:

- **Mobile phones must be switched off, not placed on silent**, while inside the school building.
- **Phones should be kept in students' bags, not in their pockets**, during lessons and movement around the school unless instructed otherwise by their teachers. If students are worried about the safety of their phones in their bags the phone should be locked away in their locker during lesson time.

However, students may use their phones:

- **Outside during break and lunchtime.**
- **In the canteen during wet breaks or lunchtimes.**

Staff will confiscate any mobile phones that are seen in the building during the day. Confiscated items will be securely stored and returned at the end of the school day, with further consequences for students who repeatedly fail to comply with our expectations.

New Ban on Smart Watches and Wearable Technology

Starting from **January**, we are extending our technology rules to include **smart watches and other wearable tech**. These devices have the potential to become a source of distraction and disruption in lessons, as well as posing potential risks to privacy. From the new year, all smart watches and similar devices should not be brought to school.

Any student who fails to hand over their mobile phone or smart watch when asked will be withdrawn from lessons until they are ready to comply with our school rules and will be given a detention to make up for any missed learning.

I would recommend that all students wear a 'non-smart' watch and have a printed copy of their timetable as this will stop them being tempted to check their phones for this purpose.

I am sharing this information now, ahead of the **Christmas period and the upcoming Black Friday sales**, so parents can consider this when making decisions about gifts.

Supporting Our Learning Environment

We kindly ask for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations. Staff will confiscate any smart watches, or other wearable tech that are seen at any point during the school day. Confiscated items will be securely stored and returned at the end of the school day, with further consequences for repeated violations.

We are aware that some students (e.g. diabetics) need to access their phones/smartwatches to monitor their health. These students will still be allowed to use this technology in school for this purpose.

I am confident that if students keep to these rules then we can maintain an environment where students can focus on their learning and well-being. However, if technology becomes a distraction to learning or a cause of significant well being issues then we will have to consider a more draconian mobile phone policy. If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Simon Bamford
Headteacher