

Student Voice Minutes

Please continue to use the Student Voice email to ask questions or give feedback that we run out of time for in meetings.

Black notes came from KS4/5 meetings, [blue notes from KS3 meetings](#).

1. Do you have any questions about the Chromebook/BYOD requirements for September?

Notes

- Do we have to buy them from school or can we bring our own?
- Will some things be blocked on them?
- Will teachers be able to see your screen at all times when you are in the classroom?
- What are the rules for using them at lunchtimes?
- What happens if you don't have the device in school?
- What happens if your bag breaks because of the extra weight of books and device?
- Why can't a soft keyboard device be used? If we have an iPad why do we have to buy another device?
- Why does Y13 need to do this for a single year left in school?

Actions and Feedback

- Most students are purchasing a Chromebook through school. If you *already* have your own Chromebook, you can purchase a Google license instead through ParentMail. You will then need to bring your Chromebook in on 5 September to have the Google license added and the Chromebook has to be power washed first so you should not have anything stored on there.
- Yes, the Google license gives us some control over your Chromebook to ensure you are using the internet safely.
- At the moment, no, but we are looking into software that would allow this to happen. This doesn't mean teachers are going to be doing this all the time but does mean they can check you are on task if necessary.
- You can use Chromebooks at lunchtime
- You will need to borrow one from the library before am registration
- The reason we are recommending Chromebooks lower down in the school is that they are so light. You may find you have to carry less textbooks as you can use digital versions and just need one device for all subjects.
- An onscreen keyboard is not an appropriate keyboard for the amount of typing you will have to do with school work. We have discussed the use of add on keyboards for tablets since Student Voice and we agree these are acceptable for the BYOD scheme.
- The benefits it brings in terms of the learning opportunities available

- Do all subjects require a device? Will we really use them? When will they be used in lessons?
- If Sixth Form don't like this system, do they have to comply?
- They are distracting
- Is wifi capable of working for everyone?
- We would prefer the scheme to be optional as some of us prefer to write on paper.
- We are worried they will run out of charge.
- It is not an affordable option for some

mean that it is appropriate for all years to be part of this. We have purposely not insisted on a Chromebook for older students for this reason. You can, of course, choose to borrow a device from the school library each day.

- Yes. We are expecting all subjects to be using technology in at least some lessons next year. Different subjects will approach this differently but they should be used to enhance learning in all subjects.
- Yes, this is a whole school approach to learning. Again, you can choose to borrow a Chromebook from the school library each day.
- Devices can be left on your bag, or the screen put down, when you are not actively using them.
- Yes, it was upgraded over Easter and continues to be tested and improved where necessary.
- This introduction goes a lot further than insisting you write class notes electronically and we are not expecting all teachers to do this. The power of the collaborative and research tools available on devices that connect to the internet is more aligned to what we are trying to achieve. If we made this optional, a teacher could not rely on using this in class and would therefore not plan it into their lessons. It is optional in the sense of being able to borrow a device from the library if you do not want to purchase one.
- This is another reason we are recommending Chromebooks lower down in the school. Your device will not be used for every minute of every day so you will probably find it will last longer than you think. You will need to get into the habit of charging every evening as we do not have the facilities in school for charging.
- We are expecting people to borrow from the library so this option should not be ruled out. It should also be noted that PP students have an option to purchase at a reduced rate and anyone can fill in a request for financial assistance form on the school website for consideration if they need financial assistance. Students claiming Sixth Form Bursary will be able to use some of their allocation towards the

- Why do we have Chromebooks and iPads and laptops and IT rooms?

- Phones should be allowed in the library for using Kerboodle, for example

cost of a Chromebook.

- A class set of Chromebooks and iPads was purchased a few years ago so we could review how they were used in school. Laptops are mainly used by teachers but we are looking at whether we will use Chromebooks instead in the future. IT rooms have existed up until now as there has been a need for them but this will be reviewed over the next year. There will always be some computer rooms remaining as there is some specialist software that needs a more substantial machine (eg in Computing, Art, Music) and computers are also required for some exams.
- There will not be a need for this if you have an alternative device.

2. Do you have any questions about how the system will work in practice?

Notes

- All the sites on our chromebooks are blocked (even if they are appropriate) eg Spotify
- Can we customise backgrounds?
- Can we find a way to download Netbeans, Microsoft and Inkscape? Or are those just for computers?
- Sometimes Google Docs ask for editing software if you want to edit a photo, can we download that?
- Will the Wifi improve as we go on?
- Some subjects are rushing into using them and some subjects could use them more

Actions and Feedback

- Please let us know if there are sites you feel you should be able to use and are blocked. We will look into this and if we agree they are appropriate, we can change the security settings.
- Yes, we will look into why you are not currently able to do this.
- Yes, Mr Petty is currently enquiring about this
- We will look into the implications of this and make a decision
- Yes, the wifi is being regularly tested and improvements made where necessary. We are hoping the work completed over Easter will make things run a lot more smoothly.
- The use of Chromebooks will not be the same in every subject and we intend it to be this way. We want a balance between using technology to enhance your learning and teachers being able to choose the method to help you learn best.

- We sometimes need to take photos of what is on the board
- Are cover teachers told what we specifically have to do on them because sometimes we don't know let alone the cover teachers.
- What searches are staff notified about?
- Can we decorate our Chromebooks?
- Will the search filters be switched off if we leave?
- We are worried about theft, damage and screen time. We also need to practise writing for exams at the end of the year.
- Will filtering be different for different Key Stages?
- When we leave the school, will our work be deleted so we don't have access to it?
- Will we still have textbooks?
- Can we bring in portable chargers to charge devices?

- Your teacher could send you an image using Google Classroom or in exceptional circumstances your teacher may give permission for this under their supervision
- Cover teachers have been involved in some of the training we have done but we will continue to work with the team to ensure they are happy with what they are being asked to do.
- We are notified if you search for something that may concern us, eg drugs. We use a list provided by our filtering service, Smoothwall, and it is only seen by Mrs Hamnett and Mr Rosen in the first instance.
- Yes
- Yes, if you own your Chromebook and leave the school, we will remove the google license and you will be able to use the device with your own personal google account.
- We are encouraging students to look after their equipment, as we already do with personal belongings. You should use your locker if leaving your bag unattended. We are not expecting you to be using your devices 24/7. We are very aware that there needs to be a balance for a number of reasons, like the fact you will hand write your exams at the end of the year.
- The Chromebook wifi and BYOD wifi are separate but our filtering won't go as far as individual year groups.
- Yes, your school account will no longer be available to you so we would suggest you create your own personal Google account just before you leave and copy your files across.
- This will vary from subject to subject. Some subjects may start using electronic textbooks. Some subjects may keep textbooks in the classroom and leave the electronic version for you to use at home. Some subjects may keep paper copies of textbooks, especially if they have them already.
- Yes, as long as you are not charging your portable charger in school.

3. Please look through the draft policy for mobile phones and suggest any improvements. Please note this is a draft policy and nothing is yet finalised. We wanted something for you to comment on rather than having an open question on what should be included in the policy.

Notes

- Why can we not use our phones before and after school. We would like to use phones in our form rooms before school.
- We are not clear on what outside means. Outside school or in the places outside the canteen?
- We have contacted parents if we have forgotten something early in the morning so they can bring it in but now we can't
- We were told to email parents, but parents don't check email. Could phones be used at Reception to text parents, who don't always check emails?
- There is only one phone so if people need to call home then it will be bad
- What if you have an accident but your phone is in your locker so you can't call anyone
- What if people have asthma attacks
- There might be a rise in detentions
- It can make you feel safer
- Can we have the phone on us as long as it isn't seen

Actions and Feedback

- We have had lots of comments on the timings of use and we will amend the draft policy to say that phones should not be seen between 8.45am and 3.30pm so that you can use them before and after school, including in form rooms.
- This wording in the policy will be removed in line with the point above. As long as it is before 8.45am or after 3.30pm, there will be no stipulation on where they can be used.
- You can, as long as it is before 8.45am.
- If you need to contact parents urgently in school hours, you will be allowed to do this at the school office. However, you will not be able to text your parents outside Reception as a general rule.
- We are not envisaging many students needing to call home but if they do, they can go to the front office and the school does have more than one phone line.
- The school site is a busy place and there would be a member of staff or fellow student around that would go and get help.
- You should see Matron, exactly as you should at the moment.
- If students follow the policy guidelines this shouldn't be the case. We have tried to amend the policy following your input.
- Whilst we can see this may be the case for some on the way home from school, it should not be the case on the school site. If you feel unsafe at school, you must inform a member of staff.
- Yes, but your phone must be completely out of sight, not sticking out of a pocket.

- We don't feel comfortable to keep them in your locker
- If we run out of canteen money how are we supposed to ask parents to top up in the mornings? Can the canteen be more tolerant if we go into negative numbers because we won't be able to text our parents.
- You are making us lie and be secretive
- There is nothing wrong with us using our phones
- Phones are needed to take photos and transfer them to our Chromebooks
- Taking phones away won't solve any problems as we will use our Chromebooks instead.
- Are phones permitted in the library before and after school?
- We want to be able to make important phone calls in form time if necessary.
- We would like 5 minutes at lunch time to contact our parents.
- We should be allowed to text our parents if any activities are cancelled.
- What is the justification for the mobile phone ban?

- See above.
- You could email them (or email yourself a reminder to talk to them later). If it is before 8.45am you can still send a message to parents.
- The only difference from the current system is that you will not be able to use phones for the second half of lunch. You actually have more access to technology than the present system.
- Having use of phones for just 20-30 minutes was making the use of mobiles a bigger deal than it needed to be. There have also been some instances of inappropriate use of phones.
- We have requested that you have use of the camera on your Chromebooks and we are hoping this will be implemented shortly.
- This is one of the reasons we are changing the phone policy now - you will have use of your Chromebooks instead and this is allowed in school hours.
- Yes, but in silent mode.
- This will not be allowed as school has started by this time. This is no different to the current situation. If you have an emergency call to make, you can speak to your teacher who will help you to find the right member of staff to speak to for a message to be sent to your parents.
- There should not be a need to contact your parents at lunch but if there is an emergency, you could ask at the school office for a call to be made.
- We are hoping to make student notices directly available to students rather than showing them in form time. This means you could check notices before school and text your parents then if necessary.
- It is a restriction on usage time rather than a ban and has been drawn up so that the benefits of phones can be enjoyed whilst the potential issues are avoided or minimised.

- Can the Sixth Form use phones in the canteen before and after school?
- We are concerned about staff in Reception overhearing conversations if we have to make a call
- Can we use mobile phones in empty classrooms?

- Yes, as can everyone due to the changes we have made.
- Calls made at Reception should be for emergencies only so should not usually involve private conversations.
- Classrooms that are allocated to Sixth Form students can be used in a similar manner to the Dining Hall so you can listen to music as long as you are using headphones/earphones. You should be using your BYOD device for internet use. You must also ensure that your phone is put away and out of sight before leaving the room.