

3rd January 2024

Miss Jill M. Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Mobile Phones – 6th Form

The aim of 6th Form is to prepare our students for adulthood which could include college, vocational training, independent work or supported employment. We also strive to ensure that students are safe, secure and happy in their school environment.

Recently we have seen an increase in the use of mobile phones in school which has had quite a negative impact. Not all of our pupils have mobile phones in school but there are a fair number and the impact we have seen includes:

- Instances of disruptive behaviour
- Unkind treatment of peers
- Distraction to learning
- Safeguarding risks

As we wish to provide the very best environment for our students, we will be introducing a ban on all mobile phones during the school day in the 6th Form from Monday 8th January 2024. This decision is in line with the October 2023 press release from the Department of Education which stated that *'mobile phone use should be banned in schools across England to improve behaviour . . .'* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phone-use-to-be-banned-in-schools-in-england>

New guidance from the Department for Education will back schools in banning mobile phone use throughout the school day and this decision will bring us in line with other European countries that have already implemented such bans.

The mobile phone ban will be introduced to pupils during the 6th Form assembly on Friday, 5th January and we will explain to pupils that phones will not be allowed past our reception area. Should a student bring a phone to school, they will be asked to store it in our new secure phone storage locker, which will be kept in the main office. Pupils will be able to collect their phone at the end of the school day. Phones will be securely locked throughout the school day and will not be available to students during lunch nor break times.



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We ask that you support us in providing a safe space for our students by reinforcing the ban on mobile phones in the 6th Form.

As always, if you need to get a message to your son/daughter during the school day, you can do so by contacting the 6th Form school office on 01795 342147 or the main school office on 01795 477788.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer
Executive Principal