

June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Restriction of Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Use**

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as the new Vice Principal at Northampton Academy, overseeing Pastoral provision. Over the course of the next few months there will be some changes happening in order to continue raising expectations amongst our students and I ask for your full support in ensuring we work together on this.

A critical focus for us as a school is to ensure the safeguarding of our students and to ensure the best climate for learning. To support this we have made the decision to restrict the use of mobile phones and electronic devices (including iWatches) when on the school site. This includes their use as a music player; headphones use is also restricted.

This decision has not been taken lightly. A very high proportion of our safeguarding and behaviour incidents are either about mobile phones themselves or involve the use of a mobile phone. Students are sometimes putting themselves, and others, at risk through inappropriate use of apps, pictures and video. Phones can also be a distraction from learning during lessons.

Students will be informed about arrangements next week in assemblies and the policy will be fully implemented from 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

To be clear: we are not banning phones completely and students **can** still have their phones as they travel to and from school. There may also be a clear educational use for devices in some lessons. Where this is the case their use will be carefully planned and monitored by the classroom teacher. However, we anticipate this to be a rare event. We have plenty of computers and portable devices which we can issue if students need this facility. The use of phones as calculators in lessons will be strictly prohibited.

To ensure that the protocol is clear, the Behaviour Policy has been updated and can be found on the school website. Some key points are found below:

1. We will operate a **'See it, Hear it, Take it'** policy. This will mean that the phone will be confiscated if it is seen or heard in school grounds.
2. Phones that are confiscated will only be returned to parents/carers. A text will be sent to the parent to notify them. The phone will be stored in a secure place until it is collected.

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3. The restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be put away before students enter the school gates and not accessed until they have left the site.
4. Students will be able to contact home by approaching Learning Managers/Student reception if they require to speak with you.
5. We will ensure that any important messages are relayed to your child through the day if you leave a message at reception
6. Students who refuse to hand the phone over to a member of staff will be placed in Internal Exclusion (IE) for the day and the phone will still be confiscated until parent/carer collects.

If you would like to view the government statutory guidance on searching and confiscation, please see here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/554415/searching\\_screening\\_confiscation\\_advice\\_Sept\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554415/searching_screening_confiscation_advice_Sept_2016.pdf)

We would ask that you further discuss this with your child over the next few days and we require your trust and support to make this a successful transition. If you have any questions regarding this update in policy, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Clyne**  
**Vice Principal, Pastoral**

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