



28th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Mobile Phones in School update

Before the start of this academic year I wrote to all parents/carers and students with a Return to School Guide, part of that guide explained the school rules regarding mobile phones. We have recently updated these rules highlighted **bold** below:

*Mobile phones will continue to be banned **within the school building except for the designated social time spaces and times** in order to support the learning environment. In order to be successful, **students** must follow these simple routines:*

1. Turn you phone onto silent or switch it off and place in your school bag, with any additional accessories, at the start of the day, before you enter the school building.
2. Your mobile phone must stay in your school bag during lesson time and whilst moving around the school building. Don't get your phone out between lessons – this is not permitted.
3. You may take your phone out of your bag during social times when you have **arrived at a designated social time area**. Remember to place your phone back into your bag before you **return to** your lesson.
4. When you have left the school building at the end of the day you may remove your phone from your bag.

*Students who fail to follow these simple routines will have their phone confiscated by the class teacher, for that lesson, and a behaviour point will be logged. Continual failure to comply **will** result in your phone being banned from school.*

Phone Usage in School Update

As a school we very much want to teach our students about how to use mobile phones responsibly and safely hence why we have not banned them outright in school. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of our students have been able to follow these simple instructions and disruptions caused by phones in school is minimal. However, there is a small minority of students who have struggled to follow these guidelines and as such we will be looking to ban these students from bringing phones to school. Parents of these students have been contacted individually.

Please can you re-iterate with your children the need for their phones to be out of sight except for social times in the designated zones.

Online and Social Media Safety In and Out of School

As part of our responsibility to educate our students about how to stay safe when using their phones and social media, this week during Lesson A we will be discussing with all students the pros and cons of social media and smart phones and their impact on wellbeing – but most importantly some key safety advice. This is on top of their CPSD lessons or Enrichment Days where we have repeatedly educated our students with safety tips and guidance.



Unfortunately, a very small number of students have failed to follow this advice and this has resulted in unsafe behaviour and/or behaviour online that has led to breaches of the school's behaviour policy. Students who show that they are not able to use their phones safely and responsibly will also be banned from bringing them to school.

Below are 5 key ways you can support your children with staying safe online.

1. *Talk regularly with your children about their Social Media use*
2. *Educate your children regularly on the risks of Social Media*
3. *Ensure you and your child follow age requirement guidelines*
4. *Agree ground rules for your child's Social Media use*
5. *Stay up to date on your child's Privacy Settings – this should form part of your regular conversations*

I have included below 3 links to recommended websites which will help you to have these conversations with and help protect your children online. I recommend that you look at these and help your children keep safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

If you have any concerns about your child's (or any other child's Social Media use), please contact your child's Head of Year on the email or phone number below:

Year 7	Mrs Jo Hartley	Jo.hartley@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 251
Year 8	Mr Ryan Swain	Ryan.swain@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 245
Year 9	Mrs Karen Gange	Karen.gange@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 304
Year 10	Miss Sandy Bassi	Sandy.bassi@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 246
Year 11	Mrs Hazel Evans	Hazel.evans@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 240
CAP	Mrs Lena Beattie	Lena.beattie@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 259
Safeguarding	Mrs Michelle Stocker	Michelle.stocker@cantell.co.uk	023 80323111 ext 250

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Ian Creswell
Deputy Head Teacher – Pastoral Care

