



CAMPSMOUNT

9th April 2019

Dear Parent,

A real focus for us this term is to ensure the very best climate for learning so that students are fully prepared for lessons and any distraction is eliminated. To support this we have made the decision to ban the use of mobile phones within school due to the negative effect on student learning. Students were informed during tutor time and have been given the opportunity to adjust to the new way of working this week, with the policy being fully implemented from Monday 29th April.

To ensure that the policy is clear, the school website is being updated to reflect how the policy will be implemented, although the basic principles are listed below:

- Mobile phones should be **'off and away'** at all times, any phone seen or heard will be confiscated.
- Phones that are confiscated will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first instance, although should there be a second occurrence a call will be made home and a parent will be required to collect the phone on their child's behalf.
- The restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school building, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds and not accessed until they have left the site.
- If students need to contact parents for any reason, they should report to main reception where the office staff will contact home.

This decision has not been taken lightly and we have done significant research to look at the issues. We have spent a great deal of time over the last few months examining the impact of the use of mobile phones in school. We have spoken to staff, students and parents and have looked at the latest research regarding their use in a school setting. I would like to share the following information:

- In the UK, more than 90% of teenagers own a mobile phone. The prevalence of these devices poses problems for schools, with most children now having their own phone.
- In a survey conducted in 2001, no schools banned mobile phones. By 2007, this had risen to 50% and by 2012 98% of schools either did not allow mobile phones on school premises or required them to be handed in at the beginning of the day.
- As well as the social disadvantages of phone use in school, recently doubt has been cast on their educational worth. "Ill communication: The impact of mobile phones on student performance." by Louis –Phillipe Beland and Richard Murphy found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of 16 year old students improved by 6.4%. The economists reckon this is the "equivalent of adding five days to the school year."
- There is growing evidence that the internet and digital gadgets are making it harder for us to concentrate. The Pew research centre in America surveyed 2,500 teachers and found that they thought the internet had a "mostly positive" impact on student research work, while 87% felt modern technologies were creating an "easily distracted generation with short attention spans." The generation Y report felt that while young people are "undoubtedly capable of long periods of concentration", however, those who spend a lot of time alone using technology" tend to have less in the way of communication skills, self-awareness and emotional intelligence."
- Anecdotally it has always been felt that mobile phones in classrooms can support student learning and in particular regarding research and note taking. However, research suggests that students are unable to multi-task and retain sufficient information to improve their test scores. In one study, students were asked

to take notes during a lesson by using either pen and paper or mobile phones. The students who were not using mobile phones wrote down 62% more information in their notes, had more detailed notes and scored a full grade higher on a multiple choice test than the students who were actively using their mobile phones.

We feel consistency is a critical thing to try and achieve for all of our students. As well as enjoying a break with your children, some parents will no doubt be looking forward to a trip to the shops to source uniform and school shoes! Before any of you embark on this please could I take this opportunity to remind you of some key parts of the uniform policy. The intention of this is to ensure that parents and students are clear regarding the school uniform policy and to avoid any unnecessary confrontation at the start of term.

School shoes: Plain black sensible leather shoes (no logo), no boots, no canvas shoes, no trainer style shoes. School shoes can be expensive and we have had issues this year with parents spending a lot of money on footwear which clearly does not take note of the above information. We would very much like to avoid this as it puts the school at odds with the student which is not what any of us would wish for and is a negative start to the term for all concerned.

Jewellery: Jewellery of any description is not allowed and is not practical for many reasons. A watch is the only item permitted. Nose studs and all other types of piercing are not allowed. Students will be required to remove any items of jewellery which will be confiscated until the end of the school day. If you do decide to allow your child to have additional piercings please ensure that they are removed for school.

Make Up: Make up of any description is discouraged. Students will be required to remove any excessive make up. Nail varnish and false nails are not allowed.

Where students are not dressed correctly, contact will be made with home and this may result in students being educated separately until this matter is resolved. Again, I should stress that this is absolutely the last thing we want as a school as we all place great emphasis on good attendance to school and to lessons.

Detentions: Should your child receive a detention for any reason, there has been a slight change to the Academy detention system to ensure better communication with parents. Students will now receive a parent text/email that states the day, time and length of the detention. There are three types of detentions running after school:

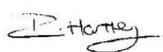
1. Faculty detention which is thirty minutes long on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday depending on the faculty that have issued the detention.
2. Academy detention which is forty five minutes and runs on a Tuesday.
3. Senior Leadership detention which is an hour long and runs on a Friday.

Failure to attend detentions could result in student isolation.

We are very proud of our school and of our students and believe that high standards of uniform, behaviour, being properly equipped and attending regularly give each and every one of our students the very best chance to learn and achieve their very best.

Thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding. We wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R Hartley
Associate Principal



Mrs J McCreedy
Associate Principal