

28<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

### Mobile Phones

I appreciate that for several parents the school policy of banning mobile phones is not supported. Some parents prefer the convenience that mobile phone technology brings, allowing students to keep in touch with family members. For the school, the policy of banning mobile phones is to maintain the school as safe as possible for students. We actively discourage misuse of mobile phones in school, as well as trying to avoid students becoming the victim of mobile phone theft or mugging. The Police advises schools that children using and/or carrying mobile phones on the way home from school are at more risk of mugging. I accept that, on this issue, there are a number of parents that will not agree with the school's position.

With regard to the need for parents to contact students, or vice versa, the school's Reception is fully staffed from 8:00am to 5:00 pm. Parents are able to contact Reception who will take a message for students. Students can use the pay phone in the Refectory to contact parents, or, in the event of that not being possible, to go to Reception where a member of staff can then ring home.

My request to all parents, whether or not you agree with the school policy, is to support it by ensuring that your child does not bring a phone to the school. A child who breaches this school rule is subject to sanctions and for those who misuse the phones, whilst in school, can face exclusion.

For your information, the general sanctions for those students who bring phones to the school are indicated below:

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offence | Phone confiscated for one week, with the phone being returned by the Head of Tutorial Support to the parent at a time arranged with the Head of Tutorial Support. The student will also serve a 45 minute detention.                                                                             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence | Phone confiscation is extended to four weeks, with the phone being returned by the Head of Tutorial Support to the parent at a time arranged with the Head of Tutorial Support. The student will also serve a 45 minute detention and complete community service for one day at lunch and break. |
| Further Offences        | May lead to internal exclusion in addition to the phone confiscation of four weeks. Serious offences using the phone or theft of phones will lead to exclusion, possibly a permanent exclusion in the more serious cases.                                                                        |

Cont/.....

If you have a particular exceptional circumstance for a short period of time, for example, a particular day, and you need a phone in school, then please liaise with the relevant Head of Tutorial Support, who may consider the request and, if granted, arrange for the phone to be looked after.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours faithfully

D Brown  
**Head Teacher**