



# Queen Elizabeth's

— ACADEMY —

Dear parent/carer,

Your child has been made aware that after half term phone use will not be allowed in school, I wanted to ensure that you are clear about our reasoning behind this change.

***Students will be allowed to bring their phone in to school, but it must be switched off in their bag.***

The reasons for this are as follows:

- Students are staying indoors sitting staring at screens even during sunny, lovely weather.
- It is clear that teaching students how to communicate with one another is an important job of ours, we want them to talk!
- An increase in the capability of phones means that students are able to access potentially harmful games, movies and music which you may not wish them to see/be exposed to.
- Social media is becoming more and more invasive and has an impact on the culture of a school because it encourages students to be engaging in messaging and chatting with people which we are unable to guarantee is appropriate. For example, the game 'Fortnite' which many students are playing on their phones recently has a 'chat' function which is open to anyone and therefore we are concerned about the online safety of students while they are under our care.

I would also like to ask you to support us with a tightening of uniform standards (which are very good already, we want to be great!) so if your child has a piercing other than a stud in each ear, they will not be permitted to wear them AT ALL in school. Jewellery has always been limited to a watch and a necklace (which must be removed during PE) only.

Many thanks for your support with this, we have high standards because we want the best for our students and we believe that ensuring they feel pride in themselves and in their school is an important part of that.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate year 11 students on their excellent preparation for the exam season, I look forward to them receiving very positive results in the summer.

Best wishes,

Helena Brothwell

