



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

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6th June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to inform you that from Monday 1st July 2019 our new Mobile Phone Policy will come into effect. From this date, students will be allowed to carry a mobile phone for use after school only. Once on site and throughout the school day mobile phones and headphones will be banned; this means they must not be seen or heard.

The use of mobile phones in school is leading to an increasing number of problems including disruption to lessons, inappropriate web usage and several other safeguarding concerns. Over the last year, we have also noticed an intrinsic over reliance on mobile phones and associated de-socialisation. For example, some students are choosing to spend break or lunchtime absorbed in their own mobile phone activities instead of enjoying the company of their friends. Our academy is one of a small minority of schools still allowing students to use their mobile phones so freely. However, the issues that these devices are now causing needs to be addressed so that our focus can remain steadfast on teaching and learning.

Following a period of consultation through the student council and with staff and parents, we have received an overwhelming message of support for the proposed mobile phone ban. The only concerns raised were around Reception's capacity to cope with increased communication demands, and short notice cancellation of after-school events. These potential issues have been addressed by expanding our reception team and introducing new short-notice cancellation guidelines.

The Mobile Phone Policy sets out clear expectations for the use of mobile phones within our academy and the consequences of misuse. Please ensure your son/daughter is familiar with this document which is attached to this email. We would also ask that you encourage your son/daughter to reduce the use of their mobile phone during the school day in the run up to the introduction of the Mobile Phone Policy, as for some students, this will mean a significant change in habit.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair Ashcroft
Principal