

27 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my communication to you on the 6th February 2026, I am now writing to confirm the academy's approach with regards to the use of mobile phones on site. Students' use of mobile phones has been an international conversation in recent months, and in February 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) issued updated guidance to all education providers advising schools to develop a policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. Research provided by the government highlights that not only do pupils themselves report that mobile phones can cause a distraction in lessons but also that screen time can displace positive activities. Socialising, exercise, and good sleep are positive influences on wellbeing. All these can be displaced by screen time. Prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the school day aims to reduce distractions and encourage pupils to engage in activities away from screens, which should positively impact wellbeing.

The overarching principles to which we are working with regards to mobile phones can be found in the Trust's SW4 Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy (Section 33). This can be found on the Trust's website here (Trust Policies – Student Welfare), or a paper copy can be requested from the academy reception.

- Mobile phones are not permitted within the school day. This means from the point that students enter the site and leave the site, mobile phones should be switched off and not used for any purpose.
- Mobile phones are not required by teachers to access any form of learning during the curriculum and lessons during the school day and are therefore not required in school. Staff will provide school devices in lessons for any subject requirements at Keystage 4, specifically in Music, DT and Art.
- Mobile phones are removed from students if they are seen using them at any point in the school day. You can view the sanctions in the standard operating procedures on the school website -

Our academy expectations can be found here.

There may be exceptional circumstances where your child needs access to their mobile phone during the day, for example, a medical need. If this is the case, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Parents/carers play an important role in ensuring a child's readiness for the school day, and your support with this approach to mobile phones is vital to ensure that the academy's rules are reinforced by you at home. You can help us maintain these standards and ensure that mobile phones are not a distraction to learning in school by:

- Ensuring you do not ring or message your child during the school day.
- Supporting our approach by reinforcing the message that phones are to be switched off and not seen or used in school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions about our expectations.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L S Newton', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Mr L S Newton

Headteacher