



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



13th July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you have had an opportunity to watch the film that I shared with you in my letter of the 28th June 2021. This gave you an overview of the plans for September 2021, which I hope you see as an extremely exciting development at HBHS.

As we prepare for the start of the new term, we are evaluating how we can improve the safety, wellbeing, and educational engagement of all our students, and we have reflected upon the impact mobile phones have in school. We are particularly looking at the impact within younger year groups and, as a consequence of this evaluation, we are changing our rules and expectations around the use of mobile phones whilst on school site. Our new policy will come into effect on the 2nd September 2021 and states:

Mobile Phone Policy - September 2021

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7,8 & 9)

- In the Lower School, should a student wish to bring a mobile phone to school, they must turn it off between 8.30 and the end of the school day.
- In the Lower School, we will operate a “**See it Lose it**” policy. If a phone is seen by a member of staff, then it will be confiscated until the end of the school day, at which point the student can collect it from the Lower School office.
- If the student’s phone is confiscated for a second time in a term, then the Parent/Carer will be required to collect the phone from the school. Further transgressions will result in the student being required to hand their phone in to the Head of Lower School at the start of each day for the remainder of that term.

UPPER SCHOOL (Years 10,11,12 & 13)

- In the Upper School should a student in Years 10 and 11 wish to bring a mobile phone to school, they must turn it off during lessons and not send or receive calls or messages until the end of the day. Students in Years 10 and 11 are permitted to use their phones during break and lunch times to listen to music, play games, research information etc. but must not use it to make calls or take photographs/videos.
- In the Upper School for Years 10 and 11, at all times **apart** from break & lunchtime, if a phone is seen by a member of staff, then we operate the “**See it Lose it**” policy. In these instances, it will be confiscated until the end of the day when the student can collect it from the office. Continual transgressions will result in the student being required to hand their phone in to the Head of Upper School at the start of each day for the remainder of that term.
- In the 6th form (Years 12 & 13) students need to adhere to the ICT acceptable user policy and their sixth form contract.

There may be circumstances when, as an aid to learning, a teacher **MAY** allow a student / class to access their phones during a lesson for a particular purpose. Following this, students must revert to the mobile phone rules for their School (Lower or Upper).

**Note - the school is unable to accept responsibility for any items of value brought into school that are either lost or damaged, such as, but not exhaustively, mobile phones, laptops, tablets, games consoles, bicycles or money.*



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I am sure you will agree that this will give a welcome break from the online world and will not only support better communication and greater engagement in face-to-face activities but will also reduce many worries and anxieties that our students tell us their phones can create. We will continue to educate all students on the safe use of technology, the importance of online safety and ensure they are suitably equipped to remain safe beyond school. This change will be communicated to students in assembly however, I would appreciate your help in ensuring your sons and daughters understand the policy and will be ready to comply.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Boyes
Principal

