



Clacton County High School

Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6DZ
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Principal: Neil Gallagher

Our reference: TAYLET4/LH

5th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Years 7 to 11 mobile phone use in the grounds of the school and school buildings

I am writing to advise you of some changes to our mobile phone policy. For some time now, as educators, we have become increasingly concerned about the impact of constant connectivity to social media on the mental health and well-being of young people. This viewpoint is supported by a considerable amount of research. The changes to the policy have been made with the best interest of our students at heart to give them a break from the pressures of being continually connected.

Currently, students are allowed their phones in school but they must be turned off and out of sight during lesson time. From Monday, 29th October, whilst they can still be brought into school, they will not be allowed out on the school premises at any time during the day, including during social times; they must be turned off and in bags or lockers. We believe that this change will allow them to focus on their education and improve peer-to-peer interactions without social media distractions.

We recognise the need for parents to know their child's whereabouts on the way to and from school and we support this. Parents should rest assured; in case of an emergency, school staff will ensure that a message is given to a child and any cancellations or changes to after school clubs or activities, students will have access to a phone to call home and let parents know.

We will use a phased approach over the next half term, before the policy will be enforced in full from January. During the week beginning 8th October, students will be informed via assemblies and from Monday, 29th October until we break for Christmas, the phased approach is as follows:

- Prior to entering the school site, students should ensure phones are switched off and out of sight, mobile phones will not be permitted to be used at any time during the school day.
- To give students the best possible opportunity to adjust to the new policy, if seen with a phone during the school day they will be requested to put it away, however, failure to comply with expectations and repeated reminders, may result in a sanction issued in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Undoubtedly, parental support will ensure a successful transition to the new policy; we are committed to working with our parents and carers to ensure our students are safe, happy and able to fulfil their potential.

I will write to you again nearer to Christmas with an update on the impact and with arrangements following our return in January.

Yours sincerely

Chris Taylor
Head of School