



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Reminder - Mobile Phones Banned in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind all our students, parents and carers that The Ecclesbourne School has for many years operated a policy of no mobile phone use in school and to reiterate our reasons for doing so. You will no doubt be aware that the government has now also acted to ban mobile phones in schools.

For Year 11 students or below, mobile phones are not to be used, seen, or heard at any point anywhere on the school site. Breaches of this rule, without express permission in exceptional circumstances, are sanctioned in line with the school's usual disciplinary procedures. You can find our policy on mobile phones in the Behaviour Policy on the school website. This means that phones used, seen or heard are confiscated and returned to the student after parents and carers have been contacted and informed. Repeated failure to abide by this rule will result in the phone being held until a parent or carer comes to collect it.

If a student needs to contact their parent or carer during the school day, they can do so by speaking to Lower School, Senior Section, Upper School or Sixth Form Office pastoral teams or by going to Student Reception. Parents and carers who need to get a message to their child during the school day can do so by contacting school Reception in the usual way. Parents must not use mobile phones to contact children at school during the school day and must ensure that their child does not use a mobile phone to contact home.

There is considerable evidence that mobile phone use in school harms student attainment. A study by the London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance found that a mobile phone ban in school has a material effect on the chances of a student achieving good GCSEs. The most benefit goes to those with low prior attainment. At Ecclesbourne our experience, over many years of operating our approach to mobile phones, is that the opportunity to reduce mobile phone and social media screen time benefits students emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

James McNamara
Head Teacher

Clarissa Ourabi
Senior Deputy Head Teacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead