

Our ref: SHO/KBR

17th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to outline a change to our policy around the use of mobile phones and electronic devices within the Academy which will be implemented as we move into the new Academic Year.

As many parents and students may be aware, a large number of schools have become 'mobile free for learners' throughout the day. At Hans Price Academy we have previously relied on self-regulation during break and lunchtime and mobile free classrooms during lesson time. However, increasingly we are seeing difficulties for our young people to manage the "always on" environment created by mobile devices, particularly with access to social media and associated platforms.

A large amount of current research, supported by social and emotional wellbeing charities, Ofsted and the Government, all support the idea of restriction of mobile phones within schools. The main reasons for the change are as follows:

- To remove the distraction/disruption on learning from mobile phones in and out of lessons.
- To safeguard young people and staff from any inappropriate use of mobile phones.
- To support young people's digital health by ensuring that at least 6 hours of their day is mobile free.

Whilst we recognise the important part that schools play in educating young people about self-regulation, we feel the time has come to introduce a more enforced restriction on mobile devices at Hans Price.

Below is a simple draft policy that is proposed to be introduced in September.

- Students are allowed to bring a phone to the Academy if they need it to ensure their personal safety when travelling to and from the Academy.
- Phones and electrical devices are to be switched off and kept in the bottom of bags or in lockers when in the Academy (**We will be a completely mobile free site for learners at all times of the day**).
- Phones or electrical devices (including head/earphones) will be confiscated if seen and placed in a labelled bag and secured in a safe or locked cabinet.
- Phones or electrical devices which are confiscated can be collected by the student between **3.30pm and 4.00pm** on the same day. If a student has their phone confiscated on 3 occasions in a year a parent or carer will need to come in and collect.

- Important messages for students from parents/carers can be communicated by telephoning Reception during the day in line with the current system.
- Where students need to *urgently* contact home they can go to their College teams or Student Reception to do so.

A draft policy on this matter is available on our website. If you would like to make any comments please return the slip on the final page of this letter by Monday, 22nd July.

We thank you in advance for your support in this matter and for helping us to manage the emotional wellbeing of our young people.

Yours sincerely



Mr Steve Holland
Assistant Principal

HANS PRICE ACADEMY

To: Steve Holland,

Re: Mobile Phone Policy

Student Name: LF:

Parent Name:

Comments: