



Beamont Collegiate
Academy

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Principal: Mr G Harris BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Ref GHA/CHE/WS/017

15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

From September 2021 we will be implementing a school wide change to the use of mobile phones. When students return from the summer break the following rules will apply to mobile phones:

1. Students will not be permitted to use mobile phones during school hours.
2. Students must keep mobile phones switched off and securely stored in their bags.
3. The use of mobile phones is not permitted at lunch times or break times. This includes listening to music, watching videos, playing games, taking photographs and making calls.

Why are we implementing these rules?

- Mobile phones have now become the number one distraction for students during school hours.
- Mobile phones are increasingly the root of conflict between young people and on occasion used as a vehicle for bullying or harassment.
- We have become increasingly concerned about the lack of social interactions between students at lunch and break times. Regularly at these times I see students silently staring at their screens. We want to ensure lunchtimes are rooted in social interactions with their friends and members of the school community as we continue to prepare the students for adulthood.

What will be the sanctions for students caught using their phone during school hours?

Rule Break	Sanction
Mobile phone visible or audible in school	Phone is confiscated, stored in safe and returned at the end of the school day.
Deliberate use of mobile phone in lesson. Eg. Texting.	Phone is confiscated, stored in school safe and returned at the end of the school day + 40 minute same day detention.
Deliberate use of mobile phone at lunch or break.	Phone is confiscated, stored in school safe and returned at the end of the school day + 40 minute same day detention.
The second time a student breaks one of the above rules the phone will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent carer.	
If there is a third time a student breaks one of the rules then they will be required to submit their phone on arrival to school and collect at the end of each day for one week.	



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What should you do if you need to contact your child in an emergency?

If for any reason you need to contact your child or convey a message please call the school reception where our admin team will support you with this.

What should my child do if they need to contact me?

If your child needs to contact you before the end of the school day they should report to reception where they will be supported with this request.

These new rules and sanctions are designed to ensure students remain focused on their learning during school hours and do not become distracted by the many such opportunities a mobile phone provides. Further to this and perhaps most importantly, at BCA we place great value on face to face interactions and this has taken on even greater value for us following the long periods of isolation our students have faced over the last 18 months. Our new rules on mobile phones will be implemented from 2 September 2021.

I would appreciate if you reinforce the contents of this letter to your son/daughter so they are fully prepared for September.

Yours faithfully



**Gareth Harris
Principal**



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