



# Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise  
Centre of Excellence for Learning

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May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been another jam-packed half term at Beauchamps and I know the students are looking forward to some well earned rest over the half term holiday. Our newsletter, published this week, is testament to the huge number of successes that have rightly been celebrated in school.

Our Year 11 and 13 students are now half way through their external exams, and we are all so very proud of how they are applying themselves, I am sure that the vast majority of our students will be celebrating another great set of results come August.

In one of my recent communications I outlined that the use of mobile phones in school was under review. We have been analysing the mis-use of mobile phones in school and have also conducted surveys with you, our parent/carers and also with our staff. There was a good response from both surveys and in both, it was clear that a large number of our adult school community support a change in our policy.

Therefore, starting next half term, **the use of** mobile phones in school will be banned for years 7-11, excluding the current Year 11, who are on site for their exams. The rationale for banning the use of such devices is borne out of our own experiences, research and guidance about the impact on young people and their learning and to improve wellbeing.

Students are very aware of the potential distractions caused to learning and the negative impact on face-to-face relationships that mobile devices can pose to young people. As a school, we have always embraced technology to support our ambitious curriculum. This change will not impact our approach, rather it will ensure that the balance is right for our pupils, and ensure they can take part fully in the school day without unnecessary distraction from a device.

We understand that many parents support their child having a phone with them for their journey to and from school. Therefore, we will be allowing phones in school, but they must be switched off from the moment they arrive on school site, and must be kept in their school bag. Mobile phones stored in pockets will not be allowed, it is essential that all students have a robust school bag every day for their school equipment and their phone should they choose to bring it to school. Students who are diabetic and rely on their phones to monitor their sugar levels, will have individual plans for mobile phone use in school. Our change of mobile phone policy will align us with other schools in the district who have already taken the decision to ban the use of phones in school.

As with any significant change, it is important there is a period of transition to enable pupils to adjust. From the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> June, in the first instance, so as to avoid unnecessary conflict and give them this time to adjust, should there be a breach of the policy, pupils will be politely reminded to turn their phones off and put them away. This transition will stay in place for two weeks.

Therefore, from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, there will be a consequence for any breach of this mobile phone rule. If a member of staff sees a mobile phone, they will be confiscating the phone. If the student complies with the confiscation, the phone can then be collected at the end of the school day. The same applies to ear-pods or a Smart-Watch which is being used for anything other than telling the time. If a student does not initially comply with the confiscation, the phone will need to be collected at the end of the school day by a parent/carers. Each confiscation will be logged and repeat offenders will receive an appropriate sanction in line with our school behaviour policy. Similarly, if a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone, the relevant sanction will be applied.

We will be communicating a “**Don’t see it, don’t hear it, don’t lose it**” policy with the students in assemblies. A useful FAQ’s guide for our change of mobile phone policy can be found on our website, [link here](#). I trust I can rely on the support of parent/carers on this change of policy. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing our students at social times in the school communicating with each other, rather than being on their phones; I am hoping their six hours in school can give them a welcome break from social media and screen time.

As always, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and I hope you enjoy a sunny Whitsun bank holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully

**Mr M Harper**  
Headteacher

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