

Dear Parents/carers

At The Portsmouth Academy, we recognise the widespread ownership of mobile devices among young people. This requires us to take steps to ensure that these devices are used responsibly at school. Any policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile devices can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring that the benefits these devices provide, such as increased safety, can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

With this in mind, we have altered our mobile device policy to reflect our commitment to student safety and preserving the excellent attitudes to learning at The Portsmouth Academy.

The new policy is attached and we will be launching it for our students on their return on Tuesday, September 6th 2016.

I would ask that you read the policy carefully and discuss this with your daughter, as your support in this change is vital to its successful implementation.

In short, from September, our students will only be allowed to use their own mobile devices (including phones, tablets and watches) in the classroom with permission from a member of staff, and for specific educational and learning purposes when directed by staff. They will not be allowed to use these devices at any other time, in any part of the school. If students are seen with these devices, they will be immediately confiscated, held in a locked box and given back to the student after a 20 minute detention on the same day. You will always be notified immediately when this happens, via a text.

Please ensure we have updated contact details for you, as it goes without saying that in an emergency your daughter may always request to contact you by visiting reception or speaking to a member of staff. Equally, you may, of course, contact reception if you wish to get a message to your daughter.

We believe this is a very positive step towards promoting better relationships between peer groups; a decrease in problems arising through social media and clarity of our intention to support your daughter with her learning in a safe environment.

If you have any questions regarding the attached policy, please don't hesitate to contact the following members of the leadership team for further clarification:

For students in years 7 and 8: Mrs L Wild (lwild@pafg.org.uk)

For students in years 9, 10 and 11: Mrs K Millard (kmillard@pafg.org.uk)

Yours faithfully

Miss N Sheppard
Principal