

23rd February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We will be speaking to students tomorrow regarding the use of smart watches in school. As of Monday 23rd of February, smart watches will no longer be allowed in school for pupils in years 7 to 11. We have seen an increase in the numbers of pupils being distracted by these in lessons and using them for communication. Ordinary analogue watches are allowed.

Our policy on mobile phones is well understood by all; they should not be seen or heard in school. They should be switched off and in the inside blazer pocket or in bags. The use of smart watches in school has blurred these lines with pupils believing that they can use their smart watches in place of their phones.

If smart watches are brought into school from Monday, they will be confiscated and placed in a safe until parents can collect.

Students in our post-16 provision, can wear smart watches but must be aware that the exam regulations set out by JCQ do not permit students to have smart watches during any exams.

I would also like to remind you that energy drinks are banned at school. Pupils are aware of this but unfortunately, drinks are regularly confiscated. We can clearly see the impact of high sugar and high caffeine drinks on young people's behaviour in school. Research has shown that consuming energy drinks regularly had a negative impact on children's mental health, physical health, educational outcomes, and overall well-being.

Kind regards

Mrs H Gale

Headteacher