



Taverham High School
An 11-18 Academy

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Headteacher: Ms Carol Dallas

23 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Last year we introduced a new rule regarding Taverham High School no longer permitting mobile phones, MP3 players and headphones in school. This decision was taken as, increasingly, there is positive evidence of the educational benefits in restricting the use of a mobile phone and the positive impact on reducing safeguarding concerns. Firstly, I would like to thank the overwhelming and positive support that we received this year from parents/carers when the new rule began. The impact of the mobile ban has been noticeable. We have had a significant decrease in issues with online bullying, students have notably improved their social skills with both their peers and adults, students have responded to movement time more effectively and there has been a notable reduction in litter dropped around school.

Despite all the changes that we have had to instigate due to COVID-19 the mobile phone, MP3 and earphone ban will continue in September and the same rules will apply. As a reminder, this restriction will be in effect from the moment the students enter the school gates at the start of the day and until they leave at the end of the day.

Please refer to the guidance details below on mobiles at Taverham High School:

Guidance on the use of mobile phones in Taverham High School **Changes to the use of mobile devices in school**

- Students are not allowed to have phones, headphones, non-learning tablets or MP3 style players out whilst on the school grounds.
- We do understand that some students struggle with social time and we have discrete supportive spaces students can go to at break and lunch time. If this is something you would like further information about, please contact your child's Head of Year.
- Students are asked to have their devices off or on silent within their bags as soon as they enter the school gates and whilst on the school property, including break and lunch times.
- If a device, (including headphones) is seen or heard then staff will be asked to confiscate this until the end of the day. The device will be stored in a safe place in the main reception.
- The first time a device is confiscated during a term, students will be able to collect it at the end of the school day from reception. Any subsequent times, the phone must be collected by a parent/carers or other nominated adult with a letter of authorisation from the parent/carers or it will be held for 5 school days, whichever is sooner. Your child's Head of Year will contact you regarding this matter. If students continue to fail to follow the school rule on mobile phones, further sanctions will be applied for persistent failure to cooperate with the school rules.



- Please note that, as at present, any valuable items brought into school are entirely at the students' own risk. The school cannot be held responsible for any phones confiscated due to students choosing not to meet our expectations. We also understand the safety benefits of having a phone for the journey to and from school may outweigh the risks. Nevertheless, we ask for your support in ensuring that all students understand that, while in school, phones must be switched off and be out of sight in school bags. The expectation will be simple – if it is seen or heard, it will be confiscated.

Please be assured that our actions are in the best interest of the safety, learning and progress of your child. May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with this rule at Taverham High School.

Yours faithfully



Miss R Ricketts
Deputy Headteacher

