

# Dawlish Community College

Elm Grove Road, Dawlish, Devon EX7 0BY  
Tel/Fax: 01626 862318  
E-mail: office@dawlish.devon.sch.uk  
Website: www.dawlish.devon.sch.uk  
Principal: Mr J Simon BEd (Hons) MEd



26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

## Mobile Phones and Electronic devices

I am writing to inform you about a change in the college policy for after half term regarding students bringing mobile phones and electronic devices onto the college premises.

After discussions with staff, Governors and considering various issues that have occurred over the past year we have taken the decision to not allow students to have mobile phones out during the college day on site. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Mobile phones can be disruptive to lessons and disrupt the college day.
- They have been at the root of issues between students in the misuse of Social Media.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices are not needed during the college day and students can make contact with home in an emergency through the student office or via their Student Welfare Officers.
- There is clear evidence and research that excessive use of social media by young people has a detrimental effect on their mental wellbeing and one of the key roles the college provides is one of safeguarding our students. We think it is reasonable to expect students to go without mobile phone use for the 6 ½ hours they are in college.
- The stance we are taking is in keeping with many schools locally, across Devon and indeed across the country.

The Behaviour Policy has been updated to reflect these changes and was ratified by the Governing Body meeting last night. It clearly states the following:

### Mobile Phone Use

All mobile phones and any other electrical devices must be kept turned off and in school bags at all times whilst on the college site. This includes all corridors, toilets, outside areas and classrooms. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**Any phone seen by a member of staff will be confiscated immediately and kept safe until a parent or responsible adult can collect it from the reception area.**

Parents will be contacted as quickly as possible, after the phone has been confiscated. We would urge parents to discuss this responsibility with their child. If a parent cannot collect it that day, phones will be locked away safely until a suitable time can be arranged for collection.

If a student refuses to hand their phone over, they will be parked with the Director of Learning. If a student continues to refuse they will be sent to the unit for internal isolation. If the instruction is still refused this will escalate to fixed term exclusion for persistent defiant behaviour.

The college will not accept responsibility for items confiscated but we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that these are kept in a safe place until a parent or responsible adult collects it.

If a parent wishes to contact their son or daughter in an emergency or students wish to contact home urgently, this can be done through either the Main Reception or Student Reception.

I would strongly urge all parents and carers to discuss this policy with their son/daughter and ensure that s/he follows this without fail. We do want to avoid having to call parents into college to collect confiscated items as this will waste your time but please be aware we will be following this policy through without exception.

Best wishes for the half term.

Yours faithfully

John Simon  
Principal