

Mobile phones, Wearable tech and Headphones

The pressures on young people being constantly in contact and 'on demand' can have a significant impact on their mental well-being, self-esteem and progress. As a society we need to address this. We all need time to switch off and focus on our jobs; the constant beeping is not only distracting it raises levels of anxiety and we all stop being in the moment. This trend is increasingly worrying as we now respond to a message on the phone rather than the person sitting opposite us. We miss out on social discourse, stimulating conversation and lose the ability to talk to each other – these are essential life skills. As with many schools around the country we have reviewed use of mobile phones whilst on the school site. This has been a difficult decision as we appreciate that students may require their phones to and from school for safety reasons. We also appreciate that they can be of educational benefit. We have decided for the best interest of our students to ban mobile phones whilst in school, if students bring them to school they must be left in their bags and remain switched off, this includes wearable technology and headphones. They will not be able to use them at any time during the school day. There will be sanctions in place for students who do not meet the Academy expectations. To support your child and yourselves please do not contact them during the school day. If you need to contact your child in an emergency, please contact the school and we will ensure the message gets through. Also, if your child is having an issue at school, they will need to contact the pastoral team, duty staff or any member of staff for support in the first instance. As this action is so fundamental to your child's health we appreciate your support on this matter.