



CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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Y GORAU O BOB UN, LLWYDDIANT I BAWB

YSGOL UWCHRADD CANTONIAN

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Headteacher: **Mrs D Gill**

Pennaeth:

Head of School: **Mr G Jones**

Pennaeth yr Ysgol:

May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Change to Mobile Phone Procedure

I am writing to inform you that we are making changes to our current procedure for mobile phone use in school, from Monday 24 June.

I first wrote to you in March outlining our concerns about the negative impact on our pupils' wellbeing, and the disruption to their learning and progress, caused by mobile phones. Research has shown that these concerns are valid and that a ban on mobile phones can result in a significant improvement in the attainment of pupils and in their mental health. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey outlined in the letter. The views of staff, pupils and parents/carers have been analysed and shared with staff and pupils. The outcome of this survey is that:

Using Mobile Phones in School will be Banned from 24 June 2024

Pupils may bring a mobile phone to school, but only to use on the way to, or home from, school. Phones must not be visible or used in school at any time – including break and lunch times. Phones must be turned off and stored in a bag throughout the school day - not kept in a pocket, waistband or on a pupil's person. Headphones/earphones or wireless ear pods are also not permitted to be used on the school premises.

If pupils are seen with their mobile phones or headphones/earphones/wireless ear pods at any point during the school day, these will be confiscated for the remainder of the day and will be available for collection by the pupil after school.

If pupils are persistently seen with their mobile phones or headphones/earphones/ wireless ear pods in school, this will result in those items being confiscated and a meeting arranged with parents/carers to return the items.

Any pupils with medical monitoring devices linked to their phones will be able to keep their phones visible, however they cannot be used for any other purpose not related to their medical needs.

This procedure will begin on 24 June, which is after the external exams for Years 10 – 13. All pupils will be given a new copy of their timetable ready for 24 June. It is expected that all pupils bring a bag to school with their correct equipment for the day, and as a place to keep their phones/headphones/earphone/wireless ear pods.

I would like to thank you for your support in this matter. Should you have any queries not answered by the FAQs overleaf, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Yours sincerely

MR G JONES

Head of School

FAQs

1. **Can my child still bring their phone to the school?**

We would prefer that pupils do not bring their phones to school at all. However, we do appreciate why you would want your child to have a phone on the way to or from school so they may carry them in their bags. Once pupils arrive on the school premises, all phones and devices will need to be switched off and kept out of sight in the pupils' school bags (not on their person, e.g. in a pocket or waistband), together with any headphones/earphones or ear pods.

2. **My child needs their phone for their timetable**

We will issue new timetables to each pupil for 24 June onwards. There will be individual planners for each pupil with space to write timetables in, from September.

3. **What if I need to contact my child at school in an emergency?**

In an emergency, phone the school office on 029 2041 5250 and the message will be passed to them.

4. **What if my child feels that they urgently need to contact me? They might need me to drop something in that they have forgotten**

Our staff are well equipped to handle the issues that may arise on any given school day. However, if they desperately need to contact you, they can speak to their Head of Year or a senior member of staff.

5. **What happens if my child does not have a school bag to keep their mobile phone in.**

All children need a bag to come to school to carry equipment, PE equipment and books.

6. **What is the procedure if my child is seen with a mobile phone?**

The phone will be confiscated by the member of staff, a record will be made in Class Charts and the phone will be kept in a central location. Your child will need to pick the phone up at the end of the day. If your child refuses to hand over their phone, additional sanctions will be issued. The pupil will be sent to Internal for a period of one working day and their phone will be removed and placed in a locker. Refusal to go to internal will result in a fixed-term exclusion with the day in internal completed following their re-admittance to the school.

7. **I am concerned about my child's phone being confiscated. How can I help them avoid this?**

The best way to prevent this is to not bring a phone to school. The easiest way to avoid problems is to encourage your child to get into a strict routine of turning their phone off as they approach the school. It should then be placed in their bag. Your child is in control of their phone, and they need to be responsible for following the guidelines.

8. **My child has left their phone on and needs to turn it off. What should they do?**

They should be prompt and honest, and ask the member of staff if they can turn their phone off. Speaking to a member of staff first will avoid any potential conflicts.