



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

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Principal – Brooklands Andrew Bennett  
Principal – Walnut Tree Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors Ayser Asif  
Business Manager Sukh Singh

11 January 2024

Dear Parents,

You will recall we wrote to you in July explaining our new mobile phone policy and the reasons for it.

Students in Years 7 – 11 have mostly abided by the policy very well and we are delighted with the support received from parents. We have also noticed the difference in the way students are socialising, including a noticeable decrease in the number of alleged bullying incidents and unkindness to each other via social media.

We allowed more flexibility for Post 16 students but unfortunately, despite many reminders, a large number of Post 16 students have found it difficult to follow the rules around where they can use their devices. To make it easier for P16, they will now follow the same rules as the rest of the school.

From Monday 15 January, Post 16 students' devices must be switched off and stored in bags and lockers.

We have included the FAQ sheet which was sent out in July to help answer any queries you may have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Andy Bennett – Brooklands Campus

Sharon Alexander – Walnut Tree Campus

## FAQs

### ***What does this change in approach mean in practice?***

- From 15 January, Post 16 students can bring a mobile phone into the school, but it must be switched off and stored in their bag (not their pocket) before entering the school gate at each campus.
- Headphones, earphones, smart watches, and other similar electronic devices with internet connectivity must also be removed and stored in a school bag (not in their pocket).
- Mobile phones and the other devices listed above must then remain switched off and out of sight at all times on the school site, including break and lunchtime.

### ***My child is diabetic and needs their phone on them to monitor blood sugars -are they exempt?***

- Yes, students who use their phones for medical reasons will be exempt – we know who these students are and will continue to support their needs. Students will be expected to have their phones silent and out of sight.

### ***What will happen if a student's mobile phone is used, seen, or heard?***

- The device will be confiscated and stored securely in Student Services.
- On the first confiscation, students can collect the device from Student Services between 3pm and 4pm.
- On the second confiscation, students will again be allowed to collect the device from Student Services between 3pm and 4pm but parents will also be notified of the incident.
- For the third and subsequent confiscations the device will be available for parents to collect from reception between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.
- Any defiance towards staff when a phone is confiscated will lead to further escalation in line with the school's behaviour policy.

### ***What if my child needs to contact me during the day?***

- If there is an emergency, students should go to Student Services who will be able to assist them by telephoning you.

### ***What if I need to contact my child?***

- Please telephone Reception in an emergency on 01908 677954 or email [feedback@mket.org.uk](mailto:feedback@mket.org.uk) and urgent messages will be passed on to your child.

### ***What about after school clubs and activities?***

- If your child attends an after-school club or activity they will be allowed to use their phone outside the building after school if they need to arrange to be picked up.

### ***What about trips and fixtures?***

- We recognise that being able to contact parents regarding return times is essential, and that many parents will want to retain regular contact with their child on residential visits. Students will normally be free to use their mobile phone at the trip leader's discretion.

***What about using mobile phones for learning in lessons?***

- The vast majority of activities that teachers have instructed students to use phones for previously can easily be achieved in other ways; therefore, phones are also not to be used, seen, or heard in lessons.
- In the exceptional event that the use of a mobile phone is considered to be necessary to support learning, the member of staff will give students prior notice.

***Our aim is that all students will follow our expectations giving no cause for confiscations to occur.***