

Our ref: CTY/HWO

3 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phones

Following recent guidance from the government on prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the Academy day, I wish to reach out to convey the rationale behind Maltby Academy's stance on mobile phones.

Maltby Academy, like all schools, has a duty to provide a safe, calm environment which is free from distractions for students. One of the greatest challenges to this across schools is mobile phone use. Unfortunately, mobile phones cause unnecessary distractions for students and can lead to students being unable to focus on their learning, with 1 in 3 students nationwide reporting mobile phones to be used in classrooms without permission.

Furthermore, mobile phones provide an unwelcome opportunity for unkind behaviour, with 1 in 10 students across the country reporting bullying online. Finally, removing mobile phones encourages young people to socialise face-to-face with peers, encouraging positive wellbeing at a point when many young people report feelings of anxiety and low mood.

As such, Maltby Academy's stance is that mobile phones should never be used, seen or heard during the Academy day. We appreciate the feeling of security it can bring to parents and carers, knowing that children can be contacted before and after the Academy day, which is why students are allowed to bring devices on site, but not allowed to use them on the Academy premises during Academy hours.

If a student's mobile phone is seen or heard by a member of staff on Academy premises during Academy hours, it will be confiscated, in line with the Department for Education guidance. In the first instance, the student will be allowed to collect this at the end of the Academy day, but for any further instances, a parent/carers must collect from the Academy on the child's behalf, as per the Behaviour Policy.

In order to assist in ensuring that Academy remains a safe, calm environment, free from distraction, we ask the following of all stakeholders:

| Students | Parents/Carers | Academy staff |
|---|--|---|
| Ensure mobile phones are switched off and stored safely in bags throughout the Academy day. Contact a member of staff if you feel contact with home is necessary, for instance, in cases of illness, permissions, equipment or dinner money. | Contact the Academy reception if you require a message to be passed on to your child, for instance, regarding collection from Academy. Speak to your child regarding the rules around mobile phone use in Academy and the reason for them being in place. | Confiscate mobile phones if seen or heard during the Academy day and ensure safe storage and recording of confiscation. |

For further information, please see the references below:

- Maltby Academy Behaviour Policy (particularly p9, 10 and 21) - www.maltbyacademy.com/about-us/policies-and-reports
- Government guidance on mobile phones in Academies – www.gov.uk/government/publications//mobile-phones-in-Academys

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Tyrrell
Assistant Principal