



Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Ms Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA

Thursday 12th December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Mobile Phones

I am writing to make clear the school's policy on mobile phones due to an increase in use on site.

The behaviour policy (available on the website) states “**do not use mobiles or personal music players in school**”. This rule applies at all times; before and after school, break and lunchtimes as well as during lessons. Year 12 and 13 may use phones in their Common Rooms. The consequence for mobile phone use in school is confiscation.

As you know, excessive use of mobile phones and social media has a devastating effect on young people's wellbeing, therefore time away from these pressures at school is very valuable. In addition, a study published by the London School of Economics traced the impact of banning mobile phones at schools on exam scores. Researchers found that students in schools with phone bans gained higher test scores and that lower-performing students benefited the most. Academic research is clear that mobile phone use in school is a distraction and negatively impacts on progress.

We understand the rationale of parents who wish to send their daughters to school with a mobile phones for their safety but if they are brought to school they must be switched off and in their school bag at all times throughout the day. **Any phones seen or heard in school will be confiscated.**

If a phone is confiscated a letter will be sent home to inform parents and request that they collect the phone from Student Services. If this is problematic the parent should contact the Head of Year to make alternative arrangements. No confiscated phone will be returned on the same day. The school has a small number of phones for emergency use i.e. for texts and calls. Students who are concerned about being contactable on the way home will be offered one of these phones and they can text the number to a parent, returning the phone to Student Services the next day.

This policy has been clearly communicated all students and staff.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Waters
Headteacher

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