

28th June 2022



Pilton Community College
Chaddiford Lane
Barnstaple EX31 1RB
T: 01271 374381
E: admin@pilton.college
W: piltoncollege.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

MOBILE PHONES

Pilton Community College recognises that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. We also recognise the many brilliant uses of modern smartphones by young people, many of which immerse them in academic and social learning.

However, we are also aware about the potential negative influences on learning that mobile phones can bring with them. Put simply, the Phone Proximity is the idea that when your phone is physically close to you - when it's within easy reach - your cognitive performance can be negatively impacted, even if you're not actually using it. Having our phones nearby makes us perform worse, but we don't realise it's having an effect.

From Monday, 11th July, we will be confiscating mobile phones and headphones/air pods if seen. Students can, of course, bring their phone to school to use on their way to and from school. However, mobile phones and headphones/air pods should not be seen at any time on the school site. This includes in and outside the building and during lessons and social time. We want to protect our students' learning.

Students will be informed of this rule in assemblies this week and will have a warning week during the week beginning 4th July.

We need your support. Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the main office remains a vital and most appropriate point of contact as we can ensure students can be reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way. Please do not contact your son/daughter during the school day so that they can keep their phones in their bags and not be distracted from their learning. To clarify:

- Mobile phones and ear phones/buds must be switched off or on silent (no vibrate) and kept bags at all times throughout the school day.
- A student may only use a mobile phone in a lesson when direct permission is given by a teacher. This would happen when it is appropriate to support learning and is closely supervised by a member of staff.
- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the main office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact.
- Mobile phones will be confiscated if seen on site. If this happens, they will be kept in the Head of Year office and can be collected by the student at the end of the day.
- If a student does not comply with our rules, we are at liberty to ban them from bringing a phone on to the school site and sanction them for non-compliance.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Graham Hill
Headteacher