



24 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your responses to our recent mobile phone survey. Over 300 responses were received from parents of students in Grades 5 to Grade 12. There were many interesting observations some of which I will share.

- Only one third of respondents were familiar with our current Mobile Phone School policy.
- Almost 90% of parents indicated their child does bring their mobile phone to School.
- Approximately 10% of respondents said their child also has a smart watch they bring to School.
- Almost 90% of respondents do not believe their child requires a mobile phone during school hours.
- A significant number of parents were concerned about how their children use their mobile phones at school with a similarly significant number who believe students do not always use their mobile phone effectively.
- Parent responses indicated that they believe the school mobile phone policy should reflect the age of the student in its application.
- Overwhelmingly, parents believed that the School should have mobile phone free zones at School.
- Overwhelmingly, parents of Grade 5 and 6 students indicated that mobile phones should be left with the class room teacher or Junior Campus office.
- Parents of Grade 7 – 10 students suggested they should be allowed their mobile phones at School but they should be kept in lockers during school hours.
- Parents of Grade 11 and 12 students indicated that they were happy for older students to have their mobile phones while still observing the mobile phone free zones.

Some other interesting statistics of the survey indicated that approximately 40% of parents contact their children during the school day with a similar number reporting that their children contact them.

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Parent responses indicated some common themes, such as:

- Parents feel very strongly about mobile phone use, in particular overuse and wanting the School to act in ensuring they are used effectively;
- Parents appreciate being able to access their children particularly with regards to changing travel arrangements and sports cancellations;
- Parents noted that phones are often used for pay pass in Café 1846; and
- Parents also asked the School to more broadly examine the use of all technology in classrooms.

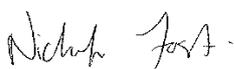
On the basis of the information received from the parent body, the student survey and conversations with staff, the School will adopt a range of responses that are age appropriate.

- Grade 5 and 6 students will require signed permission from their parents to have a mobile phone or smart watch at school. Their phone will need to be handed in to the Junior Campus Office at the beginning of the day.
- Grade 7 – 10 students will be required to store their mobile phones in their lockers during School hours unless directly asked by their teacher to bring a mobile to class for a specific learning purpose. Students may check messages or send messages during recess or lunch at their lockers.
- Grade 11 and 12 students may have their phone on their person during the School day however are requested only to use the device in the upper school common room.
- The School will instigate mobile phone free areas where phones are not permitted to be used by any student at any time. These areas include Café 1846, the Learning Hub and the outside recreational areas.
- It is important to note that students must ensure that with mobile phones in their lockers they must have their locker locked with their school issued lock.

We would like to thank the parent body for the overwhelming response to this survey and their willingness to share with the School their concerns around this important issue. We believe that our updated policy will lead to the best outcomes for our students.

Later this year, as part of our parent seminar series, Mr David Gillespie, a noted expert in the area of the teenage brain will be presenting on how to best support our children as they grow up in the digital age. David will be presenting on Thursday 19 March in Café 1846 and we look forward to seeing many parents at this seminar.

Warm Regards



Mr Nick Foster  
**Head of Senior Campus/Deputy Head (Students)**



Mrs Jane King  
**Head of Junior Campus**