



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

5th September 2016

Dear parent/guardian

Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD)

Over the last few years, there has been an increased use of mobile devices (smart phones and tablets) at the School in order to enhance opportunities for teaching and learning. In 2015-16, we committed to encouraging BYOD on a larger scale and a significant number of teachers made use of them as learning resources in lessons.

In evaluations with the pastoral teams in the summer term, it was concluded that we weren't happy with the amount of use that the students were making of devices outside of lesson time. To make the most of the opportunities on offer in the School community, it is felt that students do not need access to their devices during break times. I am also aware of the potential problems social media and other applications can cause, both in school and home environments.

To this end, students should not use their devices anywhere in the School (unless directed by a teacher as part of an educational activity) between 9am and 4pm. The exception to this is for sixth form students in the Bateman room, but this privilege is dependent on the sensible use of it by these students. If any student is found with their device between 9am and 4pm, staff have been instructed to confiscate it, and it will be returned at 4pm by Mr Saran (Years 7-11) or Mr Matley (Years 12/13). Any student having their device confiscated twice will serve a School detention.

We do, of course, recognise the importance of mobile devices (especially phones) in the safety of students travelling to and from school. To this end, we are not saying that they shouldn't have them, but the use of them in school time is restricted. Each student should have a locker where they can keep their device. As stated in our E-safety policy, "mobile devices brought into school are entirely at the staff member, student, parents or visitor's own risk".

I would also encourage you to consider the School's E-safety policy (particularly the section on BYOD) and related resources which are available under the E-safety tab on the website.

If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact me at School.

Yours sincerely

Richard Langton
Deputy Headmaster

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