Queen Mary's Grammar School
Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Behaviour Policy Update- Mobile and Smart Device Expectations (Effective September 2026)

At Queen Mary's Grammar School we are proud of the culture our students create each day. Visitors regularly comment on their courtesy, conduct and positive relationships with staff and peers. Built on high expectations, mutual respect and personal responsibility, our school provides an environment where students can thrive academically and develop the character, resilience and values needed for future success. Alongside academic excellence, we place great importance on character development. Through the wide range of academic, sporting, cultural, leadership and community service opportunities available, we seek to develop young people who embody our CREDIT values. These values underpin our expectations, shape our relationships and help students develop the character, resilience and sense of responsibility needed to flourish both in school and beyond.

We are committed to fostering a positive, respectful and inclusive environment where all students can thrive. Our updated Behaviour Policy, in line with the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance and legislation, will take effect from September 2026. I am writing to outline important changes regarding the use of mobile phones and smart devices at school, and to seek your support in ensuring these expectations are understood and upheld.

The purpose of these updates is not to change the positive culture that already exists within the school, but to strengthen and protect it by ensuring that all students can continue to learn and flourish in a calm, focused and disruption-free environment.

Mobile Phones and Smart Devices – A Clearer and Stronger Approach

From September 2026, students will not be permitted to use or have visible *any* smart devices during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Smart glasses
- Earbuds/headphones and any other wearable smart technology
- Any device capable of communication, recording, internet access or notifications

These devices must remain switched off and out of sight from the moment students arrive on site until they leave at the end of the school day. The same sanctions will apply for breaches involving any of these devices.

Sixth Form Arrangements

The same principle applies to Sixth Form students. However, we recognise that Sixth Form students have different levels of independence and study requirements. As such, there will be several designated Sixth Form areas where they may use devices responsibly. These locations and expectations will be communicated directly to Sixth Form students at the start of the academic year. Outside of these designated areas, the same expectations and sanctions will apply.

Sanctions for misuse of device

The consequences for using, displaying or otherwise failing to comply with school expectations regarding mobile phones or smart devices are as outlined below. Parents and carers will be informed of any sanctions issued through Edulink, including behaviour points and associated consequences.

First Offence

- Device confiscated
- Returned to the student at the end of the same school day
- 30-minute same-day detention

Second Offence

- Device confiscated
- 60-minute after-school detention at the end of the same school day
- Device returned after school on the following Monday

Third Offence (and Subsequent Offences)

- Device confiscated until at least the following Monday
- 60-minute after-school detention at the end of the same school day
- Device returned only to a parent or carer, who must collect it from school

Refusal to Follow Staff Instructions

We expect all students to comply immediately and respectfully with reasonable instructions from staff. Any student who refuses to hand over a phone or smart device when instructed, or who otherwise refuses to follow staff instructions relating to this policy, will face significantly more serious consequences.

This may include:

- Placement in isolation
- Formal parental meeting
- Suspension from school

We hope such situations will remain extremely rare; however, maintaining the authority of staff and the orderly running of the school is essential to safeguarding a positive learning environment for all students.

Travel and Safeguarding Considerations

We recognise that some families choose for their child to have access to a phone when travelling to and from school. However, students do not need access to a mobile phone or other smart device during the school day, and we actively discourage students from bringing smartphones into school.

Where parents feel that a phone is necessary for travel or safety reasons, we strongly recommend a basic mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. These devices provide an appropriate means of communication without the distractions, notifications, social media access and other features associated with smartphones We recognise that some students in Key Stages 3 and 4 may previously have used personal devices to support learning. However, students are not required to bring personal smart devices into school, and any such devices remain subject to the expectations outlined in this letter.

If a student brings a phone onto the school site, it must remain switched off and out of sight from arrival until the end of the school day. Any phone or smart device that is seen, used or heard during the school day will be dealt with in line with the sanctions outlined in this letter.

We also encourage families to provide students with a standard analogue or digital watch rather than a smart watch. Smart watches are treated in the same way as mobile phones under this policy and are subject to the same restrictions and sanctions.

Parents and carers should ensure that travel arrangements do not depend upon students having access to a phone during the school day. A confiscated device will not be returned early to enable travel arrangements to be made. Should a

genuine need arise, students can access support through the school office, where alternative safeguarding and communication arrangements are available.

Working Together

The partnership between home and school is fundamental to helping young people succeed. Our shared aim is not only to develop successful learners, but also responsible, resilient and respectful young people who contribute positively to their communities. The overwhelming majority of Queen Mary's Grammar School students display our CREDIT values through the everyday interactions, and we are proud of the positive culture they help to create.

We also want to promote student wellbeing. Research increasingly highlights the benefits of reducing access to smartphones during the school day, including improved concentration, reduced distractions, stronger social interaction and healthier digital habits.

The changes outlined above are intended to strengthen the positive culture that already exists within the school, provide greater clarity and consistency, support student wellbeing and ensure that every student can learn in a calm, orderly and ambitious environment.

Yours sincerely

Richard Langton
Headmaster

Rahila Naguthney
Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Attendance)