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Executive Principal: Mrs Nicola Walker
Head of Academy: Mr Nick Ash

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mobile Phone Guidance

I am writing to share important information about updated national guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in schools, and what this means for our school community.

The Department for Education has recently published guidance which makes clear that schools should be mobile phone-free environments throughout the school day, including lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes. Pupils should not wear smart watches to school, these should be left at home.

As you are aware Horbury Academy have operated a no mobile phone policy for many years, so by way or reminder our policy remains in line with this guidance, and includes:

- Pupils will not use mobile phones or smart watches at any point during the school day this includes leaving site at the end of the day
- Phones should be switched off and kept securely stored in bags (in line with our school procedures) Not in blazers or trouser pockets.
- If a phone is seen or used, it will be confiscated in accordance with our Rewards and Consequences policy
- If a smart watch is worn this will be confiscated in line with our behaviour policy

Our aim is to ensure a calm, focused and safe learning environment for every pupil.

Why do we this
National guidance highlights a number of benefits of a mobile phone-free school day, including:

- Reducing distractions and improving concentration in lessons
- Supporting positive behaviour and reducing incidents such as bullying
- Helping children feel safer and more present in school

Staying in touch during the school day
We understand that parents sometimes need to contact their child urgently. If this is the case, please contact the school office, and we will ensure that messages are passed on promptly. Likewise, if your child needs to contact you, we will support them to do so.

Supporting your child
Parents and carers play an important role in helping this approach to work successfully. You can support us by:

- Reminding your child of the expectations before they come to school
- Discussing the reasons behind the policy at home
- Encouraging responsible use of technology outside of school

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Exceptions
We recognise that in some circumstances, mobile phones may be needed (for example, for medical reasons or specific individual needs). Where this applies, we will continue working closely with families to make appropriate arrangements.

We believe that this approach will help create the best possible environment for learning and wellbeing for all our pupils. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Ash
Head of Academy