



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



16th September 2019

Use of Mobile Phones

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope your son/daughter has enjoyed their first two weeks at Ripon Grammar school. The students have been working hard with their form tutors and pastoral prefects to get to know one another, and settle into our daily routines. We are pleased to see them all looking so smart and wearing their uniform with pride.

However, it has come to my attention that some individuals have already made poor choices with regard to the use of mobile phones and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the strict protocols we have governing their use. This is because we are keen to encourage social interaction and interpersonal skills and believe mobile phones can prove to be socially isolating.

Students are not allowed to have mobile phones out during the school day. They should be turned off during lessons and not used during break. Mobile phones may only be used in the main hall during lunch for the purpose of checking/sending messages. Students are expressly not allowed to take photographs or videos of one another within school.

Extract from Student Planner 2019 -2020

Mobile phones are permitted on the school site but **must be off (not on silent/vibrate) and they should not be seen or used throughout the school day except for approved use (see below).**

*Phones are allowed on site to enable communication regarding travel arrangements between students and parents particularly in view of the distances some students travel to school at lunchtime or at 15.55. To facilitate this, phones may be used by students before/after school and during lunchtime **in an approved area (Main Hall) for the purpose of sending/checking messages only.** At all other times, permission should be sought from a member of staff; this should take place only in exceptional circumstances and in a discreet area of the school.*

Staff reserve the right to confiscate mobile phones if these rules are not adhered to. Confiscated phones are handed to me as Head of Year and then returned at the end of the day. If, in exceptional circumstances, your son/daughter needs to use their mobile phone during the day, they must seek permission from a member of staff and do so under staff supervision.

/ ...

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

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Whilst we appreciate that you may need to text your child occasionally, please refrain from doing so during the school day whenever possible. If you need to contact your child as a matter of urgency, please telephone the school receptionist who will make sure that your child receives your message in the presence of a member of staff.

We hope to work collaboratively with parents to engender safe usage of mobile phones. Please do check your son /daughter's mobile phone regularly and be aware of any inappropriate images or videos. We would also recommend that parents install parental control settings on social media applications so that you can monitor any inappropriate usage of these platforms.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A Hoskins

**Miss Hoskins
Head of Year 7**

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