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**JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL**

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phones

Renfrewshire Council high schools all have a policy where mobile phones are not permitted for use in classrooms. Until recently at Johnstone High, we had a 'bag it or box it' policy, where young people were asked to keep their phones in their school bag or in the classroom phone box. However, we have noticed over the last four months that many of our young people are struggling to avoid the distraction of their phones during learning time, and increasingly, teachers are having to remind learners to leave phones out of sight in their bags. This is having a negative impact on learning and teaching, and on pupil engagement.

As such, from **Monday 12th January**, we are moving into line with all Renfrewshire schools, and will ask every young person to put their phone into the class phone box at the beginning of the lesson, where they will be safely stored until the end of the lesson. Young people will still have access to their phones before school, between periods and at break and lunch time. We do ask that they use their phones responsibly at these times, but are fully supportive of learners having access to their phones in social times. We ask that as per current policies, if there is an emergency and you need to get in touch with your child, you contact the school office and we will support this.

Any young person who needs their phone for a medical intervention- for example, if they have a diabetes monitor on their phone- will still be permitted to use it for the medical purpose at any time, and will be allowed to keep their phone on their person.

If a young person is unwilling to leave their phone in the phone box for the duration of a lesson, the Senior Leadership Team will support them in handing their phone in to the school office. If this occurs, their phone will be stored securely until the end of the school day, and parents/carers will be alerted by message from the school.

We are confident that shifting our phone policy to align with that of the other Renfrewshire high schools will create a calm and productive learning environment in Johnstone High School, and I am grateful for the support of all families in implementing this change to our procedures. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact your child's pastoral care teacher.

Attendance

As you know, young people cannot learn if they are not in class. Currently, we alert all parents/carers if a young person is not in school at the start of the school day and after lunch. However, following a successful trial with our S4 pupils, to ensure that we are safeguarding all young people, we are moving to a period-by-period alert system.

This means that if your child is not present in class at the beginning of any period, and they do not have permission to be out of class (for example, at a music lesson, or an in-school appointment), you will get a text message alerting you that they are not in class. This ensures that we are effectively communicating with you any concerns about attendance throughout the school day, not just at morning and afternoon openings.

As we move to this new system, we appreciate your patience and support, and we believe that this will support our young people to succeed in their academic studies as it helps ensure they are in class and learning when they should be.

If your child is absent due to sickness or has a planned medical or dental appointment, please contact the school in the normal way, and this will be updated on our system. We will also continue to send a text message home if your child is late into school in the morning. Again, we thank you for your support at this time.

Kind regards,

Pauline Bradley

Head Teacher

Johnstone High School