

People Directorate

Acting Head Teacher: Mr Mark Anderson

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Our Ref: MA/LMcL Your Ref:
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Dear Parent/Carer,

MANAGING THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES

Prestwick Academy wishes to positively embrace mobile technology to enhance learning and teaching now and in the future.

While embracing mobile technology as a learning tool, the school community has identified the need to address the inappropriate use of mobile technology, particularly the use of social media, apps and text messages during lessons. Through discussion, consultation and questionnaires with pupils, parents and staff, the negative impact on learning and teaching as well as the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of our young people has been highlighted.

Guidelines have been produced in response to feedback from all stakeholders to reinforce the positive and appropriate use of mobile technology and to ensure pupils are clear on where and when mobile phones are permitted to be used.

The mobile phone guidelines are being launched with staff, S1-3 pupils and parents over the course of this week and will take effect from Wednesday 29th May. The guidelines will be presented to senior pupils next week following their return from exam leave.

The main points of the new guidelines are:

- Communal areas such as the foyer and dining hall will be designated green zones to indicate the permitted use of mobile phones. Signage will be clearly displayed to indicate this.
- Communal areas such as corridors will be designated a red zone to indicate the use of mobile phones is not permitted. Signage will again be clearly displayed to indicate this.
- Reversible red and green signs will be displayed in all classrooms and the assembly hall. If mobile phones are being used for learning then the green signage will be displayed. If the use of mobiles is prohibited then the red signage will be displayed. This may change throughout the course of a lesson but pupils will clearly and consistently be able to identify whether mobile phones are allowed in the classroom at any particular time.

Pupils will be encouraged to use mobile phones appropriately and reminded of the guidelines should there be inappropriate usage of mobile phones. Should the need arise, parents/carers will be contacted, to advise of any pupil who continues to use mobile phones inappropriately after being encouraged to follow the agreed guidelines.

It is hoped with a consistent application of the new guidelines that inappropriate usage, which interferes with learning and teaching, will reduce. This will not only support improvements in attainment but also support the positive mental wellbeing of our young people.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Anderson'.

Mr Mark Anderson
Acting Head Teacher