



26 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter break. The end of this term has been fantastic, with every year group taking part in rewards assemblies after staff recorded over **500,000 positive logs** across the school since September. Well done to all students for their hard work this term, and congratulations to everyone who has represented their house this academic year. You can see the current leaderboard on our website – it's very close!

Ahead of students' return to school after Easter, please take note of the following reminders, particularly regarding expectations around mobile phones.

Mobile Phones

You may have seen the recently announced [UK government consultation](#) on children's use of social media and smartphones. These measures reflect growing national concern about their impact on young people's wellbeing, focus, and safety. At King Edward VI School, we recognise that this can be a real source of concern for families.

We are committed to supporting students' wellbeing. We appreciate that digital technology plays an important role in everyday life but can also present challenges. The most effective support comes when schools and families work in partnership to create shared norms and reduce pressure on young people

Department for Education guidance states that they "expect schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime." [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

In line with our Code of Conduct – Ready, Respect, Strive and Department for Education guidance, we expect that if your child brings their mobile phone into school, the mobile phone must be turned off and kept out of sight (in their school bag) between 8.45am-3.15pm. The guidance states that "Mobile phones are never used, seen or heard whilst at school." Students must not have mobile phones in trouser or blazer pockets. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone to check the time or their timetable.

At King Edward VI School, as you are already aware, mobile phone usage during the school day is prohibited. If any student is seen with or using their mobile phone during the school day, they will receive a negative log on GO4Schools. If a student is seen on three occasions using their mobile phone or with their mobile phone in a trouser or blazer pocket, then an after-school detention is issued. If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they can do this via the school office.

To support this **after Easter**, registration will begin with tutors reminding students to check that their phones are turned off and, in their bags, where they should remain for the duration of the school day.

Furthermore, **after May half term** we will further adapt the school's approach to mobile phones in school. Although the expectation that students are not able to access their mobile phone has always applied during the school day,

it will now also include arrival at school, the time before registration while students are on site and departure from the school site at 3.15pm. Many students currently begin using their phones as soon as the bell rings; this will no longer be permitted on site. The same rule applies to Air Pods and other earphones. Students in the Sixth Form will have designated areas where they may use their mobile devices. Students seen either on their mobile phone or with their mobile phone in a blazer pocket or trouser pocket will receive a negative log to track the use of mobile phones by students in school. The same rule applies to earphones and earbuds. Negative logs for mobile phones will result in an after-school detention **every time** (the current system of three warnings will be removed) and the mobile phone will be confiscated. Parents will then be contacted to collect the phone from school reception. We are aware that a few individuals have phones for medical purposes and this exemption will continue.

We are aware that these changes to the school approach to mobile phones are in line with changes nationally and at other local schools. We appreciate you taking the time to remind your son/daughter about these changes in our approach and thank you for your support.

School uniform

The vast majority of our students arrive in school ready to learn, with a high standard of uniform and I would like to thank you for your support in this matter. We believe that wearing school uniform smartly demonstrates pride in one's appearance and the school; and also sets the tone for a positive learning community built on personal responsibility and respect. At King Edward VI School, we pride ourselves on our high-quality teaching and learning and inclusivity and therefore have high expectations of all students. Our aim is to support students in reaching their potential and this is reinforced through our whole school vision and values of Aspiration, Belonging and Collaboration.

The Sixth Form lanyard must be worn at all times around the site to support safeguarding and security. Students also need to wear a school blazer. Tops must be suitable for a professional environment, black, white or grey and any logos or patterns discreet. Large logos or pictures on tops are not suitable. Students may wear black or dark grey jeans, but light grey or very faded jeans are not part of the Sixth Form uniform. Footwear is required to be completely black. Infringements of the uniform policy are logged on GO4Schools and following three logs, including a verbal warning from the member of staff logging the infringement, will result in an After School Detention. Your support in checking GO4Schools and talking with your child about dressing smartly for school would be appreciated.

Behaviour Curriculum

This academic year staff have delivered sessions during registration on various aspects of school life which are aimed to support our students with daily routines and values. We have covered topics such as kindness and selflessness and have also had 'KES news' videos on litter and queuing. All of which have had great impact on school routines. I would like to ask for your support with the topic of "Being Ready," by ensuring that all students arrive at school on time and with the correct equipment. A small minority of students are arriving at school without a pen or the correct books for the day, which disrupts lessons and creates unnecessary barriers to teaching and learning.

We would like to thank you once again for your support in these matters, this support means that teachers can focus on teaching and learning, without the disruption which mobile phones can cause; this is vital for student success.



R Larkin
Assistant Headteacher

