



1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we enter the final half term of this academic year. We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached their final examinations, and we wish them every success.

For other year groups, there is much to look forward to this half term, including a range of trips and visits, as well as Year 10 work experience. Well done to all students who worked hard last term, and to those who have achieved a high number of positive reward points.

At the start of this new term we would like to share some key reminders. In particular, please pay close attention to the updated expectations regarding mobile phone use.

### **Mobile Phones**

When we wrote to you before Easter, we explained that the government had recently raised concerns about children's use of smartphones and social media. Department for Education guidance states that schools are expected to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phones at any point during the school day, including during lessons, between lessons, and at breaktimes and lunchtime.

At King Edward VI School, this has been the expectation for a number of years. Mobile phones must not be seen or heard on the school site and, if brought into school, must be switched off and kept in bags (not in blazer or trouser pockets).

As we return today after half term, we will further strengthen our approach. Although the expectation that students do not access their mobile phones has always applied during the school day, it will now extend to the entire time students are on the school site. This includes:

- before school, if students arrive on site prior to 8.45am
- after school, until students have exited the school site

**Sixth Form students will be permitted to use mobile devices only in these designated areas:**

Sixth Form common room and Study area upstairs in the LRC.

**Students are not permitted to use their mobile devices:**

Downstairs in the LRC or in the social area around the Sixth Form block

Students are expected to have their phones switched off and stored in their bags before entering the school site, including at Johnson Gate, the bottom of Kingshill Road, and the alleyway by the bus turning circle. For Sixth Form students, this also includes when they leave the Sixth Form car park and enter the main school site. These boundaries have been shared with students through our behaviour curriculum during tutor time.

Any student seen using a mobile phone, or carrying a phone in a blazer or trouser pocket, will receive a negative log on GO4Schools. This will result in an after-school detention on each

occasion, as the previous system of three warnings will no longer apply. The mobile phone will also be confiscated.

Parents/carers will be informed via Groupcall, and the phone will be held at Main Reception until it is collected by a parent or carer. Please note that Main Reception is open from 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday, and until 4.00pm on Fridays.

We recognise that some students require mobile phones for medical purposes; these exemptions will continue.

Parents and carers have been very supportive, and the small number of students who have previously had their phone confiscated have generally done so without issue. However, managing confiscations, contacting parents/carers, and arranging collections takes staff away from their primary focus of teaching and learning, as well as the smooth running of the school day.

We are aware that these changes are in line with developments nationally and in other local schools. We would appreciate you taking the time to remind your son/daughter of these expectations, and we thank you for your continued support.

There are a range of parental controls that you may wish to explore, which can limit access to mobile phones during

the school day, supporting the school's policy and reducing temptation. Further guidance on setting up controls for different devices is available from your mobile provider and the UK Safer Internet Centre.

To summarise, mobile phones must be switched off and placed in school bags before students enter the school site. They must remain switched off and not be seen or heard at any point during the school day. Phones may only be turned on again once students have exited the school site.

Reminder regarding blazers for Year 12 in the summer term

- As an option your blazer does not have to be worn, but your coat is not a substitute for your blazer.
- You cannot wear a hoodie
- You cannot wear your coat over a jumper or shirt.
- If you are wearing a coat over your jumper or shirt you must wear your blazer.
- If you are not wearing a blazer, your clothing is clearly visible. Make sure your clothing is suitable for school.

Tops should not be cropped or off the shoulder. Thin strap tops are not suitable for a professional environment.

Logos must be discreet.

- Your lanyard is non-negotiable and you must wear your lanyard at all times when moving around the school site.
- In September your blazer will need to be worn again, as we will not be following a summer uniform plan.

Thank you for your continued support.



R Larkin

**Assistant Headteacher**

**Community**