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Principal: Simon Underwood

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we prepare to welcome all of our students back to the Academy next week we would like to remind you of certain expectations. In particular for those that will have a renewed focus on this year we would like to work in partnership with them to achieve the highest possible standards of student conduct and learning. This year, we will be focussing on minimising distraction in lessons in a drive to nurture not only greater learning but better learners. One distraction students experience comes from mobile phones. Research has proven that increased screen time through mobile phone usage impedes much of what makes our students ready to learn. It lowers psychological wellbeing, makes students less curious and exert less self-control as well as increasing distraction and emotional instability and lowering their ability to complete tasks. Whilst we appreciate the need for students to be contactable on journeys to and from school, we have a duty to protect their learning whilst they are here and therefore expect that phones are not seen or heard at all during the school day.

Any student who uses a mobile phone or electronic device (including iWatches and earphones) without permission or whose mobile phone goes off in school will have it confiscated by a member of staff. The phone will be held in a secure environment until a parent collects it. The Academy follows a 'See it, Hear it, Lose it' policy and this restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school. This includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. It is also in place after enrichment clubs have finished. Phones should be put away before students enter the school gates and not accessed until they have left the site. Failure to do so will involve confiscation and detention. Subsequent failure to comply with this direction will involve isolation or fixed term exclusion.

Additionally, we understand that these types of electronic equipment are expensive or easily damaged and it is therefore advisable that they are not brought to school at all. If a student does bring a phone or electronic device to school in September we advise the following to avoid sanction.

- ✓ All devices should be securely placed in bags before entering the building.
- ✓ Devices should be turned off, not just on silent, as vibration can also act as a distraction to learning.
- ✓ Phones should not be used as watches. Checking the time is not an excuse for using a phone.
- ✓ Mobile phones can only be used when given explicit permission to by a member of staff for learning or wellbeing purposes.

Further details of how this fits into our wider behaviour policy can be found on our website using the link below.

Corby Business Academy-Behaviour Policy

Thank you for your continued partnership in securing the highest standards in our community and if you wish to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Prior Vice Principal