



4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

## Re: Phone Free School

After careful consideration of current research on how students learn best, and consultation with students, parent/carers and teachers, we are pleased to announce that as of 1st September 2023 Passmores Academy will become a phone free school. Our young people are our greatest assets, and it is important that we are providing the best learning environment to maximise their potential. You will [see from this video](#), that we have considered a range of evidence in helping to inform our decision, we haven't simply looked at the number of behaviour incidents from a minority of our students.

The aim of the new policy is –

- To improve empathy
- To enhance communication skills
- To contribute to positive mental health and wellbeing
- To improve concentration, attention and therefore outcomes
- To reduce the amount of time staff are dealing with phone incidents so that they can focus on supporting individual needs.

This means that students will not be permitted to use any personal electronic devices on site.

Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- Mobile phones
- Smart devices such as watches \*
- Handheld entertainment systems, e.g. games consoles, mp3 players
- Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, iPads

To help with this transition we will be conducting a few "digital detox" days:

- Thursday 6th July
- Thursday 13th July
- The **whole week** for the last week of term, Monday 17th July – Friday 21st July.

During these days, students' devices will be expected to be turned off and kept out of sight, as will be the expectation in September.

We look forward to sharing the new policy with you in due course.

\*If students are wearing smart watches they must be in "school mode" or "airplane" mode to remove distractions. Smart watches must only be used as a watch and not a communicating device. For more information on this, please visit the manufactures manual for example [Apple Watch](#) or [Samsung Watch](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Goddard', with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

**Mr V Goddard**  
**Co-Principal**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Christie', with a large, circular flourish at the beginning of the name.

**Ms N Christie**  
**Co-Principal**