

The Blue Coat School Liverpool

Non sibi sed omnibus

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26th January 2026

Dear Sixth Form Parents and Carers,

We are writing to clarify our expectations regarding mobile phone use for Sixth Form students, following strengthened national guidance from the Department for Education. This communication is intended to ensure that our approach remains clear, consistent, and supportive of students' learning, wellbeing, and growing independence.

The national guidance states that schools should operate as phone-free environments throughout the school day, including lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime. This guidance is designed to remove ambiguity and to strengthen the authority of schools in setting firm and consistent boundaries around mobile phone use.

Expectations during lessons

In lessons, our expectations for Sixth Form students are the same as for students in the rest of the school:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight.
- Phones must not be used for any educational purpose, including research, internet searches, calculators, or note-taking.
- Where technology is required for learning, students should use their own laptops or school-provided devices, as directed by their teacher.

Expectations during study periods

During study periods, students are expected to work independently and purposefully. These periods are treated as structured learning time:

- Study periods should normally be spent in the library or designated study areas.
- Students should be working on their own laptops.
- Mobile phones should not be used during study periods.

Students accessing the internet on their laptops will do so via the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) login system. This access operates in line with the school's Acceptable Usage Policy, which all students have signed. The system ensures that websites accessed are appropriately filtered and safe for educational use.



Expectations during social time

The one area where Sixth Form students are permitted additional flexibility is during social time:

- At breaktimes and lunchtime, mobile phones may be used only in the Sixth Form Common Room and Bistro.
- Phones should not be used elsewhere on the school site, including corridors, classrooms, the library, or general school areas.

Summary of expectations for Sixth Form students

- Lessons: phones switched off and out of sight.
- Study periods: laptops only; phones not in use; normally based in the library or designated study spaces.
- Breaktime and lunchtime: phone use permitted only in the Sixth Form Common Room and Bistro.
- All other times and locations: phones switched off and out of sight.

These expectations reflect both national guidance and our commitment to preparing students effectively for further education and employment. They are designed to strike a balance between encouraging independence and maintaining the structured, focused environment necessary for high levels of academic success and professionalism.

We are grateful for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations with your son or daughter. When schools and families work together, students benefit from clear and consistent messages about responsibility, behaviour, and the appropriate use of technology.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a calm, focused, and purposeful Sixth Form environment.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Sexton
Headteacher