

3rd April 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

UNIFORM AND MOBILE PHONES

As we move into the summer term we inevitably have the odd issue with uniform that we need to address.

Our uniform policy aims to provide a way for students to show that they are proud to belong to our Academy and gives them a sense of belonging. In addition, as I'm sure you agree, it reinforces the idea that a smart appearance contributes positively to the students' attitude to work and study; it can also influence how the school is portrayed to the general public, the local community and visitors to the school.

The vast majority of students follow the uniform rules and regulations perfectly, however, we currently seem to have a number of students' shoes that are 'broken' or have 'worn out' and been replaced by canvas shoes or trainers. A few students have also started to wear tight fitting trousers and black denim jeans. We ask that these issues are addressed over the Easter break and students return to school next term in black leather or black 'leather imitation' shoes and also trousers from the uniform store (on the SWA website) or tailored black trousers with the school logo sewn onto them as per our uniform policy (the logo can be purchased from the finance office).

The uniform policy also states that students should not have any facial piercings and we ask that if students do have facial piercings that they are removed over the Easter break and return without any piercings - clear studs are not acceptable.

As you will be aware, students at Samuel Whitbread are allowed to have their mobile phones with them at break and lunch for their own personal use. I also know from speaking to parents, that many of you find it useful to be able to contact your children if you are going to be late home from work or the bus is running late for example.

However, over the last month, staff members have reported that they have had to speak to students about having their mobile phones out during lessons which can cause disruption to learning. As much as some of our students protest, I do not believe they can concentrate 100% on their lesson whilst checking messages.



Principal **Nick Martin**
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH

From Easter the new protocol on mobile phones will be:

1. Phones and earphones must be out of sight before entering the classroom - phones should be on silent and stored away safely.
2. If a child's phone is seen out in a lesson then it will be confiscated until the end of the lesson and the student will be given a lunchtime detention.
3. If a student receives two detentions in a day their parents/carers will be contacted and asked to implement a one day phone ban to support the school rule.
4. Two phone bans will result in a student not being allowed to bring their phone to school for a specified period of time.

Please can you discuss these rules with your child and ensure they understand the consequences of not following directions with regards to the use of mobile phones.

Thank you in advance for your support, should you have any questions, please contact your child's tutor or Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mark Gibbs

Head of Children & Families Services