

9 February 2009

Dear Parents / Guardians

As outlined in the last issue of Vista, it has been decided that if students bring cell phones and iPods to school they are to be kept out of sight and switched off from 8:40am until 3:20pm.

Senior management has made this decision because the devices were interfering far too much with student learning.

The three main reasons for making the decision are:

Firstly, many staff had great difficulty in teaching a large number of students whilst enforcing our present rule that the devices were not to be on in class. This led to a lot of wasted teaching time.

Secondly, we have had too many incidents where student use their phones for anti-social purposes. In some cases the use of the items are in themselves anti-social.

Thirdly, the theft of cell phones and iPods by students has increased to the point that it has become a mini epidemic. It is creating an unsavoury atmosphere.

We accept that there are a number of good reasons why we might embrace these electronic devices. These reasons were carefully considered but, on balance, it was felt that the devices are too detrimental to the College's core business of teaching the curriculum.

We have not banned students from bringing these items to school altogether because we realise that many parents want to contact their son or daughter before, and especially after, school. Students who travel long distances may want some music to make the journey seem shorter. What we do require is that these devices are out of sight and not used during the normal school day.

If parents need to get an **urgent** and **important** message to their son or daughter during the school day, they may phone the school office and the message will be given to the student.

Parents need to be aware that if students break this rule, the phone or iPod will be confiscated and sent to the Student Office. They can be collected by parents at any time on week days between 8.30am and 4.30pm, but will not be returned directly to students. We regret having to inconvenience parents in this way but we have to have a means of enforcing this rule that has been introduced to ensure the learning of all students is maximised.

Yours sincerely

**D C HODGE, MA(Hons), MEd.Mgmt(Hons), Dip Tchg  
PRINCIPAL**