



**NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL**  
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are already aware from our earlier communications, we will be introducing a complete smartphone ban for all students in Years 7–11 from September 2026. I am writing now to confirm the details of the implementation and to share how we will support students as they adjust to the new expectations. As you may be aware, on Monday of this week, it was agreed by the Government that there will be a strategic phone ban in all schools moving forwards.

In addition to this letter, please find attached the policy, and a FAQ sheet to help address any questions you might have. It will also provide clarity on the rules, processes, and rationale behind this step. Perhaps the most significant aspect of this change which needs to be clearly understood by all, is the sanction which will be in place should a smartphone be discovered. Confiscation of any smartphone in Years 7-11 will be **for a period of 4 school weeks**. Please see the policy for further details. This is legal, set out clearly in the policy, and in line with what other schools have done to ensure there is a real deterrent. Any confiscated non-smartphone (brick phone) can be collected by a parent at the end of the day.

We recognise that this will be a significant change for many students. During the remainder of this year Tutors, pastoral staff, and Heads of Year will work closely with students to help them understand the reasons for the change and we have shared information in whole school assemblies this week.

Our aim is to make this transition calm, structured, and well supported. Experience from other schools shows that students adapt more quickly than they expect—and often find the change liberating.

Important for us all to remember is that our stance is built not on behaviour or academic concerns but on the moral responsibility to protect young people from harmful online influences, social media pressures, and early exposure to adult content. I am steadfast in the conviction that this is the right decision moving forwards. Growing up today is uniquely difficult, and young people need space to develop their identity, confidence, and values without constant digital noise. If academic results improve as a result of this ban (and evidence from others suggest that this is the case) then that is an added bonus.

We are encouraged by the number of parents, staff, and students who have expressed strong support for this change. I have written to every feeder primary school outlining our plans, and the response from them is positive too. Many families have welcomed the clarity and purpose behind this decision. Today I will be

speaking at a conference for 50 Headteachers across Buckinghamshire to share our approach and discuss our planning ahead of September. I am delighted to be the first school in RBWM to make this bold move. I have already been contacted by other secondary schools who intend to do the same thing. We are not alone, and indeed most recently Wycombe High School have reached out to us. They are implementing the same policy for similar reasons in September.

Our priority is to provide a school environment that is safe, calm, focused, and free from digital pressures, enabling every student to learn and thrive. The smartphone ban is a key part of this commitment.

Please take time to review the updated policy and FAQ sheet carefully. If you have any further questions, we are very happy to assist. There will also be a Parent Information Evening on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm** where you are invited to come into school and discuss things with us in person.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership.

Kind regards



Miss Jo Capon  
Headteacher

