

5 April 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families

STUDENT SAFETY - Mobile phones

To support student safety, manage antisocial behaviour and increase positive engagement at school, the College has made the decision to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students during the school day. This extends to the use of smart watches which need to be on airplane mode during this period.

Mobile phones must be locked in student lockers between 8:35am and 3:10pm including breaktimes. Mobile phones, if seen or heard, will be confiscated and will require a parent to collect the phone from Secondary Administration. Heads of Year can grant an exemption to students on the basis of monitor health conditions as part of a school approved documented health care plan.

Mobile phones may be used for educational purposes under the direct instruction of a teacher.

From the commencement of Term 2, Apple Pay at the Canteen will no longer be available. I understand the mobile phone ban will impact on how some students purchase items from the Canteen. Accepted forms of payment include cash, tap and go debit card or ordering via the Flexischools App.

More information will be shared with students and families via Head of Year and the fortnightly Mercy Moments publication.

STUDENT SAFETY - Vaping

Vaping continues to be a concern for our parents and school communities. Vapes may contain harmful chemicals that aren't listed on the pack. Vapes can leave a young person at increased risk of depression and anxiety. Vaping has also been linked to serious lung disease. Importantly, many of the long-term harms of vaping are still unknown.

If you believe your child is vaping or addicted to vapes, please seek support from the College or from your doctor.

The College Leadership Team will take a firm position in relation to student who vape, or sell vapes, on school grounds.

PUNCTUALITY

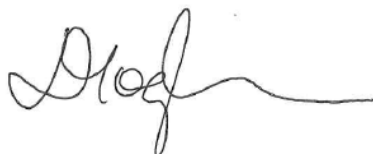
Students must be at school and in class in a punctual and timely manner. As we move into our winter terms, I encourage all students and families to discuss and plan ahead to ensure students arrive at school on time.

UNIFORM STANDARDS

Please refer to the [College website](#) or your child's [College Organiser](#) (page 13) for the Winter Uniform Guidelines and Expectations. The College regards wearing the uniform with pride as vital in demonstrating our value of Justice and Excellence. We expect that all parents will support these expectations which are very clear in the Organiser.

I am hopeful for a positive term ahead, where we will witness the very best of the students and our Mercy College community.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Fogliani
PRINCIPAL