

Dear Parents and Carers,

School uniform and the use of smart phones

I want to thank you all for your support since the children have returned to school following the lockdown.

It has, as we know, been an extremely disruptive period but we have endeavored to ensure that the negative impact on learning has been restricted as far as possible.

Our task now, in partnership with our families, is to do everything that we can to ensure the children catch up and get to where they need to be academically.

As you may be aware, Heron Hall was recently named as a finalist in the UK's Secondary School of the Year competition.

I think this shows, in part, that we are trying to do everything possible to provide an outstanding education, to inspire our students to succeed and also give them the care they need for their well-being at Heron Hall.

Uniform

We had to make a number of adjustments to cope with the demands imposed by COVID. After the half term break when students return to school, we will revert to the normal expectations about school uniform.

One of these changes was wearing PE Kit to school, instead of the full school uniform, in order to reduce the use of the PE changing facilities.

With the ease of lock down, students will be expected to wear the full school uniform to school every day and change into PE kits on the day that they have PE lessons. We will ensure that the changing rooms are cleaned as appropriate, as per the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment. As you are aware, except for PE lessons, trainers are not allowed as part of the normal school uniform.

Any parents who are not sure of the school's uniform expectations can find out more information [here](#).

Due to the importance of ventilation in classroom and corridors, students were allowed to keep their outdoor clothing on within the building and classrooms. However, with the weather getting warmer, after the half term break, students will be expected to remove all outdoor clothing when entering the building. On this note, please be reminded that students should also be bringing in adequate, reusable water supplies to ensure your child has enough to drink throughout the day.



Issues with smart phones – advance notice of new measures

During the coronavirus lockdown many students across the country have been connecting with friends via social media on their smart mobile phones. Since returning to school, students have not adhered to our strict policy of no mobile phone usage during the school day. The Secretary of State for Education has highlighted the problems of smart mobile phones being brought to school and has encouraged school to take effective action.

There have been many problems with students using smart mobile phones in school for activities that are non-educational, this includes taking videos of other students and in some cases teachers and circulating them. This happens in the classroom and playground and it is diverting much needed attention away from teaching and learning.

The teaching team at Heron has made a number of appeals to the students but these have not resolved the matter.

We are therefore now appealing to parents and carers to help us stop this problem.

Schools have the power to ban phones from being taken on to the premises. Government policy is that it is the responsibility of head teachers to determine whether this is appropriate.

In September, at the start of the new academic year, all smart phones will be banned from the school premises.

The only phones that will be allowed in the school will be phones without smart technologies. You can purchase one of these phones at very cheap prices at local supermarkets and suppliers.



The above are examples of non-smart phones which can purchased from retailers such as amazon and Tesco for approximately £15.

We are focusing on making sure your children have every opportunity to learn and achieve their potential, and not waste valuable learning time addressing distractions that are impacting their lessons. Students will be expected to have their non-smart phones turned off throughout the day. Should there be an emergency, the office will contact you immediately. Please remember you can always contact the office should you need to contact your child in an emergency.

Your support as always will be most appreciated.

Kind regards



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