

22 February 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

**Smartwatches – Devices which can be used to answer calls, receive texts, access emails, access mobile applications, view photographs, play music, access the internet or draw/animate images.**

You will be aware that we do not allow mobile phones to be accessed on the Academy site. Smartwatches are, in effect, an extension of the mobile phone and we have therefore made the decision to **completely ban the wearing of smartwatches throughout Outwood Academy Carlton.**

This will deter any distraction from work during lesson periods, as text messages and social media sites can be accessed using smartwatches. It is also worth noting that examination awarding bodies have advised us that anyone in possession of a smartwatch during an examination will be disqualified from the examination. In addition to this, smartwatches are costly items and, as with all personal possessions, we cannot be responsible for the loss or damage of such items.

As smartwatches become more readily available we are asking for your support by not allowing your son/daughter to bring a smartwatch into Outwood Academy Carlton at any time. If these devices are brought into the Academy, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected and signed for by a parent/carers in the same manner as mobile phones.

**Examinations 2016**

Students in years 10 and 11 will soon be sitting GCSE examinations and as we are now living in a digital age, policing examinations becomes increasingly difficult. As examination awarding bodies treat the possession of unauthorised materials in examinations as an extremely serious offence, I would like to draw your attention to a number of items, including smartwatches, which are strictly not allowed in an examination. You will already be aware that these items should not be in the Academy in any case.

For examinations, students must not have in their possession any of the following unauthorised materials:

**I-PODS  
MP3/4 PLAYERS  
MOBILE PHONES  
SMARTWATCHES  
NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The possession of any unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or a smartwatch, is regarded as a serious offence and could result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from the examination and the overall qualification.

Any mobile device found on a student during an examination will be confiscated and reported to the examination body as 'suspected malpractice'.

Yours faithfully

Paul Haynes  
Principal