



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

## Mobile Electronic Devices and Examinations

Now that the Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams are completed, we have reviewed our arrangements here in school. I thought that it would be helpful for you to know what arrangements we intend to have in place for the summer exam season in due course.

As you know, mobile or internet-enabled devices are strictly prohibited from all rooms where examinations are held. The relevant regulations are set out for candidates by the Joint Council for Qualifications at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/exam-room-posters/no-mobile-phones-poster> and there is also a short video which focuses in on this very important topic at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/jcq-video-no-mobiles-in-exams>. The boys are told repeatedly that they **MUST NOT**, under any circumstances, bring any type of mobile device into an exam, but there was evidence from the recent mocks that this message is not getting through to everyone. It would be hugely helpful if you were able to talk to your son about this issue so that he understands the overwhelming importance of following the regulations. They apply to **ALL** examination candidates without exception. All of the boys need to understand that mobile devices need to be either left at home or in another safe place; if he forgets and arrives at the exam room with his phone then we have a secure 'bag and tag' arrangement whereby he can leave it with the invigilation team for the duration of the examination. Under **NO** circumstances should he enter the examination room with the device in his pocket, whether it is switched on or not. This summer we will also, for the first time, be using scanning technology to make our arrangements for exam security more robust.

If the invigilation team suspect that the regulations have been broken they will make every attempt, at the end of the exam, to identify the location of the device – this is likely to involve holding back some of the candidates after the exam sessions and (ultimately) instituting a search. Whether a device is then found or not the school would need to inform the relevant exam board of a case of suspected malpractice, and any action following that would be at the discretion of the exam board. One of the sanctions available to the boards is the disqualification of candidates from the paper in question or from future examinations. That is something that we all want to avoid at all costs.

I should add that there are also regulations on the use of social media which can be found at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/using-social-media-and-examinationsassessments>. Once again it would be really helpful if you were to ensure that your son has read and understood these regulations.

We rarely have problems in the conduct and security of examinations here at Bishop's – but it can only be that way if we ensure that everyone has read and understands the JCQ rules. The latest statistics show that mobile devices are a growing threat to exam security countrywide, but by working together we can ensure that our boys avoid problems and do what matters most – show their full potential when it really matters.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Smallwood  
Head Master