

29/06/2021



**GAWLER & DISTRICT
COLLEGE B-12**

Years B-12

Barnet Road,
Evanston SA 5116

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a team of Year 7 Teachers and Leaders, we have been reviewing the year so far and looking at areas that need improvement. Many of our students, teachers and parents have identified mobile phone use and inappropriate chrome book use as areas that are preventing our students from focusing on their learning in the classroom. As a result of this review, and many conversations we have had with all stakeholders, we have come up with an alternative plan for Term 3 and 4 for Year 7 students with regards to technology in the classroom.

From the beginning of Term 3, Year 7 students will not be permitted to access their mobile phones on them between 8:45 and 3:15 (2:15 on Thursdays). We recognise that some students need phones to contact parents before and after school. In these cases, students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. Student phones will be labelled, collected during home care and stored securely until the end of the day when they will be returned. In the event that a student doesn't hand in their mobile device to the class teacher, the device will be confiscated by leadership and parents or carers contacted. Where there is a repeat of misuse or refusal to follow reasonable instructions to in a device when asked, we will refer to the school behaviour management policy which may include further steps such as internal suspension or suspension.

Additionally, chrome book computers will remain at school. Charging bays have been installed in each Year 7 classroom and each student has been allocated a bay. After the mid-year school holidays, students will need to bring their charger to school and it will be placed in the charging bay. We are happy to accommodate students, families and carers by keeping the computers at school from now on an as need basis. In the event that students need to take their chrome book home to complete any tasks or indeed for any reason, this will be clearly communicated to parents and carers by the subject teacher prior to the computer coming home.

Some students have expressed concern that they will not know what to do to at recess and lunch without their computers and phones. Teachers and Leaders are currently working with the Year 7's to develop a lunch time activities plan that will involve structured and supervised play.

We are hopeful that these changes will have a positive effect on our Year 7 classroom environments. Should you have any questions or concerns about anything discussed in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely

Liz Rankin
Head of Middle School

Angela Michael
Principal

