



Ref: ABT

16 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Mobile phone expectations and uniform updates from September 2026

Following on from the recent communication from our Trust CEO regarding the national changes to mobile phone legislation in schools, I am writing to share how we will be implementing this at St Peter's Collegiate Academy from September 2026.

Our priority is to ensure our classrooms are environments of distraction-free learning, and that our corridors are spaces of genuine, warm, human connection. We know from research that when schools become phone-free spaces, student focus improves, anxiety decreases, and social interactions thrive.

To make this a success, we need to work hand-in-hand as a team. Below, I want to share our clear expectations so that you and your child can prepare together over the summer.

From the moment students cross the academy gates in the morning, **St Peter's becomes a "No Phone Zone"**. Mobile phones and smart devices must be switched off completely and placed inside bags before entering the academy site, and must remain out of sight at all times throughout the day, including at break and lunchtimes.

Morning routine: As students arrive at the academy, staff will remind them before they enter the gate that phones should be turned off and in their bags.

Bus passes and digital tickets: Please note that phones cannot be used inside the gates for any reason. Because a phone will be confiscated immediately if seen on site, it is vital that your child does not rely on a digital bus pass stored on their phone. Please ensure they carry a physical bus pass or paper ticket for their journey, so they are not left without a way to get home if their phone has been confiscated.

Visible signage: To help remind students as they arrive, they will notice clear new signage installed at the academy gates welcoming them into our phone-free community.

We want to be entirely transparent about what happens if a device is seen or heard, so that there are no surprises for you or your child:

Immediate confiscation: If a phone is visible or used on the academy site, it will be politely and immediately confiscated by a member of staff. The phone will be securely logged, stored in a named envelope, and kept in Reception.

Parent collection: To ensure the safety of the device, we ask that a parent or carer collects the phone from Reception with their child, after the academy day has ended.

The 24-hour rule (work exceptions): We understand that busy work schedules mean parents cannot always collect within the above timescale. If you are unable to collect the device, please contact Reception and give permission for your child to collect it themselves. This will be allowed only after a minimum of 24 hours has passed from the time of confiscation. Please note that for repeat offences, this return window will extend to 48 hours, or up to a week, as we look to break poor habits.

Refusal to hand over: We expect total mutual respect in our community. In the rare event that a student refuses to hand over a device to a member of staff, this will be treated as a serious breach of our behaviour policy and will result in formal, immediate escalation.

Updated uniform and PE kit guidance

Alongside this letter, we have included a copy of our updated uniform guidance. There are no major changes; however, we have tried to add further clarity around some elements to prevent issues developing.

To ensure high standards of hygiene and safety across the academy, we are also addressing some persistent infractions regarding PE kit:

Jewellery compliance: All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. Wearing nose studs or multiple ear studs is strictly prohibited. One pair of ear studs is permitted as part of our uniform policy, but all items should be removed for PE to avoid potential injury. Karas must be removed or covered with a sweatband. Students and parents are advised to plan any new piercings for the summer holiday, so that they are removable before the start of the new academic year.

Incorrect PE attire: Students must wear the designated PE kit for practical lessons. Wearing regular trousers or flared trousers instead of the proper PE kit is unacceptable. PE trainers (and football boots, when appropriate) should be worn to provide the correct support for physical activity and should have non-marking soles to protect the sports hall floor. Having separate shoes also supports good hygiene and protects our new floors from mud and grass.

PE kit affordability: If your family requires genuine financial support to secure the correct uniform, please contact us directly so we can assist you. Where possible, we will allow students to borrow spare, pre-loved items of kit. Occasionally, a small number of students bring in expensive branded clothing rather than their PE kit; we will issue sanctions and contact parents when this occurs.

Medical exemptions and participation: Physical Education is a core part of our curriculum. If your child is genuinely unable to participate, a parental note or email must be provided before the lesson begins. Arriving at PE and claiming an inability to take part

without prior written notice will result in an immediate detention. Please note that retrospective emails sent after a detention has been issued will not overturn the sanction.

False and long nails: For clear health and safety reasons during physical activities and practical lessons, students are not permitted to have very long or false nails.

We are sharing these guidelines now because we want to ensure all parents and students are fully informed and comfortable with these expectations before the end of this academic year.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a positive and focused environment for your child. If you have any questions about the points raised in this letter, please feel free to contact the academy on 01902 558600 or email info@stpetersacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Bradnick-Thompson
Assistant Principal