

2nd April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent months, much has been written and discussed, both nationally and locally, about the lives of young people in today's society. At NSG, we remain acutely aware of our responsibility not only to educate students academically, but also to support their development as thoughtful, kind and responsible individuals in an increasingly complex world.

While we continue to educate students on the potential risks and impact of social media, we also recognise our duty to actively shape a culture that champions respect, kindness and a deep sense of community. It is with this commitment in mind that we are making a small, but purposeful, shift in our approach to behaviour during unstructured time, specifically at break and lunchtime.

From the start of the summer term, we will be introducing a set of '**Collective Expectations**'. These are simple, clear principles designed to encourage our students to make the most of their unstructured time, to care for the shared environment, and to return to lessons focused and 'learning ready'. These expectations will be displayed in all tutor bases and form the basis of a school-wide commitment to creating a calm, positive and respectful atmosphere throughout the day in line with our school values and expectations.

Students at NSG have the privilege of having access to their tutor bases during unstructured time. With this privilege comes responsibility. The '**Collective Expectations**' are designed to foster a greater sense of togetherness, encouraging all students to look out for one another and to uphold the standards that define our school community. While staff will take a positive and supportive approach to encouraging students to meet these expectations, a continued and deliberate failure to do so may result in privileges being temporarily withdrawn.

A particular area of focus is mobile phone use during the school day. Our behaviour framework, the **6 NSG Respects**, makes clear that mobile phones should not be used at any point during the school day, including unstructured time. The overwhelming majority of our students follow this rule impeccably and we are proud of their maturity and focus. However, we are aware that a small minority of students continue to use their phones during social times, particularly within tutor bases, and this can disrupt the positive learning culture we are working hard to maintain.

In line with the '**Collective Expectations**', the following approach will be trialled from the start of term, and we will be seeking feedback before the summer:

If a student is found using a mobile phone in a tutor base during unstructured time, the tutor group will spend their unstructured time in an alternative supervised space the following day. This approach seeks to reinforce the principle of collective responsibility. It reflects our belief that when students support one another in meeting shared expectations, a stronger, more respectful and positive school culture is created for everyone.

In addition, the school-wide mobile phone procedures will continue as follows:

- **First offence:** the phone will be confiscated by a member of staff. A behaviour point will be issued, and parents/carers will be notified. The student will collect their phone from the Finance Office in the Clare building at the end of the school day.
- **Second and subsequent offences:** the phone will be confiscated and stored securely. A member of staff will contact home, and the **phone must then be collected by a parent or carer** from the Clare building during the hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm.

These expectations are not new to our community. They reflect the values we already uphold and are aimed at ensuring that all students make the very most of their time in school - socially, emotionally and academically. For the vast majority of students, there will be little to no change, as they already demonstrate the positive behaviours we seek to embed across the school.

Our goal is simple: to strengthen our community through shared responsibility, positive relationships and mutual respect. By working together, we can continue to foster an environment in which every student feels focused and ready to learn.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Glen Giles
Associate Assistant Headteacher

