PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES
SCHOOL POLICY

Mobile phones, iPods, Blackberries and other personal communication devices are in common usage in our society. Mobile computing, by which we mean the use of network capable devices that students are already carrying, has become an indispensable part of the day to day life. The key driver is the ease and speed with which it is possible to access the internet, wirelessly, from virtually anywhere in the world via the cellular network. Mobile devices are ideal for learning since they can do anything that can be done on a desktop. More young people access the Internet on their phone than on a computer.

Teachers and students use these devices as learning tools in the classroom. They are perfect for finding information, recording and capturing video/audio, sharing and just in time learning. A billion new smart phones are produced each year with thousands of applications designed to support learning.

At Wingham High School we strongly encourage students and teachers to use mobile computing in the classroom with the following rules governing their use.

1. Teachers will expect that mobile phones and iPods are turned off and remain out of sight when they are not part of the class lesson. Students are not permitted to make personal calls, respond to calls or send personal text messages while in class.

2. If students use their phones inappropriately during class time or without the permission of the teacher they will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the classroom teacher. Students are not to have inappropriate content on their phone.

3. Under no circumstances can any electronic device with a storage capacity be in the possession of a student during exams or any assessment task. This will result in an automatic zero for the exam or assessment without exception.

4. When being spoken to by a staff member in a face to face communication it is expected that earphones will be removed from both ears as a courtesy to the speaker. If a staff member needs to address a student when a phone conversation is in progress in the playground, it is common courtesy that the student will excuse themselves from the call until the face to face communication is completed.

A full copy of Wingham High School’s Mobile Phone Policy can be obtained for the school’s website.

Mark Thomson
Principal

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