

Dear Parent/ Carer and Students,

I trust that this correspondence finds you well.

As you will be aware, following the Ministerial Order by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic), Mobile Phones are not to be used or accessed by students during the school day. To be clear, and for the purpose of the policy, a mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

The Ministerial Order and [Department Policy](#) is founded by extensive research and comprehensive evidence of the harms associated with use of phones, and the negative effects upon learning and detrimental impacts to social and mental health.

As such, starting Term 3, Newcomb Secondary College has implemented necessary amendments to our existing mobile phone policy to support students, and our college community with this important matter.

It should be noted that the amended Newcomb Secondary College Mobile Phone Policy has been approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with many other state schools. We ask that you read through the [Newcomb Secondary College Mobile Phone Policy](#) closely and discuss with your student accordingly. As a community we will achieve the best transition to this policy, and thus support students best if it is a collaborative commitment and team approach.

In summary, the policy amendments feature-

1. Details on exemptions
2. Staged consequences for mobile phone offences which include
  1. student phone relinquishment
  2. parent/ carer collect
  3. after school detentions
  4. parent/ student/ school leadership meetings
3. Failure to Follow Reasonable Instructions
  1. Where a student is in breach of the mobile phone policy and fails to act in accordance with policy guidelines (ie. fails to relinquish mobile phone)
4. Student Supports
  1. Educational opportunities, activities, and discussions in after-school detentions
  2. Tailored supports to attend to lingering habitual challenges
5. Parent/ Carer Consultation
  1. Notifications and communications from Leadership and the school via Compass
  2. Collaborative, constructive, and mutually supportive meetings

The amended Newcomb Secondary College Mobile Phone policy will be implemented in full via a three-week phased approach, commencing on the first day of Term 3. The phased approach is to support a successful transition to the amended policy for students and our college community. The three-week phased approach will consist of-

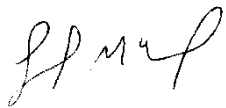
### Term 3

1. **Week 1 (Phase 1)**- Policy Reminders, Discussions + Education. Parent notification via Compass however, no student consequences.
2. **Week 2 (Phase 2)**- Students to relinquish phone. Parent notification via Compass however, no further student consequences.
3. **Week 3 (Phase 3)**- Full Policy Implementation.

As a school, we have taken considerable time to prepare students, staff, and the college community throughout Term 2 to ensure a smooth and successful transition into the amended mobile phone policy starting on Day 1 of Term 3. Like all community laws, rules, and expectations, we all have a responsibility to abide by them collectively and collaboratively. Akin to our **College Values**, we need to ensure we **Learn, Respect, and Work Together** to be able to co-exist in a safe and supported community environment, as we do in our wonderful school. As such, we expect to have a commitment from, and support of, all members of our college community. We expect that our students and college community will be respectful when breaches of the mobile phone policy occur- after all, they are learning opportunities that we, together, have a responsibility to be respectful of, and support with, especially for our students. It is incumbent upon our school/ parent/ carer partnership that we act as role models to offer reliable adult guidance and proactive considered support to ensure our students can grow to become respectful and responsible community citizens themselves.

We thank you for your understanding, proactive discussions with your student(s), and continued support of Newcomb Secondary College.

Yours sincerely



Scott McLeod  
Principal