

16 November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

**GCSE examinations information – disqualification warning re: digital devices**

As Year 11 and some Year 10 are currently taking some trial examinations in the Sports Hall or in classrooms, it seems a good opportunity to draw your attention to some of the JCQ regulations. We live in a digital age, and it is important that candidates are aware of the implications of this on the public examinations they are taking.

Examination awarding bodies rightly treat the possession of unauthorised materials in examinations as an extremely serious offence. I would like to draw your attention to a number of items that are strictly forbidden within examination venues. Students are expected to leave these, switched off, in their bags that are stored outside the examination room, usually within the PLC.

The following is an extract from the current JCQ regulations:

For examinations students must not have in their possession any of the following unauthorised materials:

**I-PODS**

**MP3/4 PLAYERS**

**MOBILE PHONES**

**SMARTWATCHES\***

**NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The possession of any unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or a smartwatch, is regarded as a serious offence and could result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from the examination and the overall qualification.

\*As an academy we do not want to ban students from wearing watches in examinations as some obviously do, but as smartwatches become more readily available, we are asking for your support by not allowing your son/daughter to bring any of the above items into his/her GCSE examinations.

Any mobile device found on a student during an examination will be confiscated and formally reported to the examination body, following an internal investigation, as 'suspected examination malpractice'. This would usually result in marks being removed from that paper, or a zero score recorded, or disqualification from one or more examination papers or subjects.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat  
Principal