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Dear Parent/Carer,

Friday 6 September 2024

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

School Uniform

Following the recent communication regarding uniform from Year Heads, I thank you for your support in turning out your child in their school uniform. There has been a noticeable and significant improvement across the whole school. Let's keep it going!

Mobile Phones

At Beath we have a clear and easily understood policy on the use of mobile phones in learning areas. This policy was developed and implemented with input from young people, parents/carers and school staff.

The purpose of this note is to remind you of our approach to mobiles - and also to ask that you discuss this with your child.

We expect all our young people to have their phones **on silent and out of sight** in classes, unless the teacher has decided to allow the use of phones within the lesson. Every learning area has a mobile phone poster that has a clear red cross indicating no mobiles to be used, and a clear green tick for when they can be used as a learning tool. This pragmatic approach places trust in our youngsters and an expectation of maturity; it is also preparing them for how phones are used in the modern workplace.

Please check the settings your child has on their phone – if they have their phone in their pocket and it is constantly buzzing, that will inevitably distract them from their learning. *We thoroughly recommend the 'do not disturb' mode when in school!*

You can do your bit here too – a fair number of pupils tell us they need to check their phones for messages from their parent/carers. Please don't contact your child during the school day as it just interrupts and distracts them from their learning. If you do need to, please only do so at social times: our break times are 10:30 – 10:50, and lunch is 13:05 – 13:50. In the case of a family emergency, please contact the school office rather than directly with your child – the office would then liaise with the Guidance teacher to handle the situation.

Out with classrooms and learning areas, we expect all young people to use their phone responsibly. No-one should have photos taken of them, or be filmed, without consent. To do so is now illegal in Scotland.

This week Year Heads briefed all youngsters on our mobile phone policy during year group assemblies – to complement this it would be most helpful if you had a chat with your child too.



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Upgrades to the fabric of the school

Over the summer we completely redesigned and overhauled the main toilets. These are now open plan (but still male and female) and are now easy to access and use. I am delighted to report that this has been a huge success with every young person now able to quickly and safely visit the toilet and then wash and dry their hands.

We also installed fresh, filtered drinking water dispensers at two central locations in the school. If your child does not already have a water bottle then I would recommend getting them one so they can make use of this facility.

SQA qualifications 2024

Last session, Beath's senior pupils delivered a strong set of qualifications. At National 5 and Higher level, the school has recorded the highest rate of passes for the last 6 years. At other levels we continue to outperform the Fife and national average. On your behalf I would like to congratulate and thank all school staff for their dedication and relentless effort to support and encourage our young people to achieve their true potential.

In closing, I once again wish you and your family all the very best and thank you for your ongoing support. Please remember all school information can be accessed at our website: <http://beathhs.schoolwebsite.scot/> and via our school app.

Yours sincerely,

Rector
Beath High School