

MILLER TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

PER CULTURAM—Promoting Growth and Development

20 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We live in a digital age where mobile phones have become an integral part of our lives. They offer us instant connectivity, information at our fingertips, and a plethora of entertainment options. However, with every great tool comes responsibility, and unfortunately, the misuse of mobile phones has begun to cast a shadow on our pursuit of knowledge and learning in our school.

As has been communicated in the media, the NSW Department of Education's Student Digital Devices and Online Services Policy is being extended to include a ban on mobile phones in high schools. While the ban is scheduled to commence in Term 4 for all schools, we have been working with our families during Semester 1 to gain a better understanding of the impact of mobile phone use on their children's learning. I thank those parents and carers who made time to complete the online survey.

The results indicated, 75% of respondents (n=133) felt that their child's learning was being severely disrupted by the misuse of mobile phones at school. Nearly all respondents indicated that they would support a change in the school's Social Media Policy that restricts mobile phone use during school hours. Further, student survey results clearly indicated that mobile phone misuse was severely impacting their learning and general wellbeing.

In response, and in consideration of Departmental of Education Policy, in Week 2 of this term we will move our school to a mobile phone-free space. Our new Mobile Phone Policy will be supported by the Yondr Program. The Yondr Pouch system has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

This will mean that mobile phones and headphones are not to be used during the school day (before school, in class, during breaks, excursions, sports, or on other school-related activities). We believe that this proactive approach will help our students, your children:

- Increase their engagement in learning.
- Increase learning time.
- Increase their safety and wellbeing.
- Improve their communication and interpersonal skills.
- Reduce mobile phone-related distractions and anti-social behaviours.

Exemptions: Use of mobile phones will be permitted if a student requires a mobile phone or online service for medical reasons as part of their school health care plan.

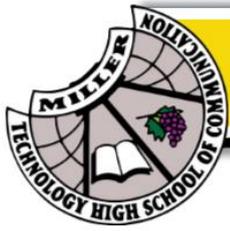
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Please take some time to review the school's Mobile Phone Policy as part of this communication. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email – kenneth.edge@det.nsw.edu.au.

To provide a safe and respectful learning environment for your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Kind regards,

Ken Edge

Dr. Ken Edge
(Principal)

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