



# Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

R. Chatterjee, PhD.  
Deputy Head Pastoral  
Email: [ranjit.chatterjee@ellesmere.com](mailto:ranjit.chatterjee@ellesmere.com)

S V Pritt-Roberts, M.Ed.  
Deputy Head Academic  
Email: [vicky.pritt-roberts@ellesmere.com](mailto:vicky.pritt-roberts@ellesmere.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent,

There has always been an expectation by the government that schools control what pupils are able to access through the school's internet. We have filtering systems along with time restrictions that prevent unrestricted access of the Internet. However, in line with recently published government guidance, there is now an expectation that schools limit unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). The reason for this is because it recognises that children, whilst at school, can sexually harass their peers via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images consensually and non-consensually, (often via large chat groups), and view and share pornography and other harmful content.

To this end we have introduced a mobile phone policy, to limit the access to the internet by mobile phones or other Smart technology. Middle school pupils will still be able to bring their phones into school but they will not be able to carry them during the school day, although there will be designated times when messages can be checked. If they are boarding they will have access to their phones during their free time, but they will be taken in before lights out. Sixth form pupils will have a greater degree of access, but they should not be used outside of House during the day. The full policy is available on: <https://www.ellesmere.com/the-schools/all/college-policy-documents/mobile-phone-policy-2021/>

From an academic perspective we remain committed to developing our digital strategy for learning and much has been gained from pupils having online access to subject resources and for research. We are in the process of researching and piloting the use of a specific tablet that we recommend, which does not have the worrying aspects of the mobile phone network. Whilst these devices are being used in school they can only connect to the internet via our school network, which has robust filters on it to keep children safe. I am hopeful we can negotiate with a supplier who can offer parents a discount on the purchase when bought through our scheme. There will be more information on this later in the term.

Yours sincerely,

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

[www.ellesmere.com](http://www.ellesmere.com)

*A Woodard School*

*Registered Charity number 1103049*

*Ellesmere College Ltd is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406*