

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science, Maths and Computing College

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Student Access to School Wifi

Over the last few months, we have been installing wifi routers in the school. These will enable wifi devices to be able to access the internet including laptops and smartphones. The internet will be filtered in the same way that internet is filtered on the main school network through a piece of software called smoothwall. This does not permit access to specific sites such as Hotmail and Facebook, but also constantly monitors content and filters sites that contain inappropriate material.

The availability of wifi in the school will allow teachers to use mobile devices in lessons without the need to book computer rooms. For example, research using the internet could form part of a lesson within the normal learning environment of the classroom. It will certainly not be necessary for all students to have smartphones as these activities will be small group based.

The school already has a well-established Acceptable Use Policy that clearly states how technology should be used within the school and applies to wireless access to the internet in just the same way as access through a PC. Rules covering the use of mobile phones at school are clearly stated in our learning charter. The only change will be that during some lessons, the teacher may allow students to use their mobile devices during lesson time for very specific tasks. As long as the student accesses the internet using the wifi network, there will be no extra cost for the student and the content will be filtered in exactly the same way as if they were using a PC.

We will, of course be explaining all of this to the students, but would welcome any comments you have relating to this.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Jones
Assistant Head