

14<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
(VM/DS)



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Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware from the last newsletter that the use of devices during golden time for Primary 7 pupils was discussed at a Parent Council meeting. This was a useful discussion in finding out what people thought about the opportunity of devices such as mobile phones, tablets and hand-held gaming devices being used. However, the views shared were limited to those at the meeting or those that had been shared with people at the meeting and it's important to take into account views of everyone concerned. Therefore the parent council devised survey questions for parents, pupils and staff to ascertain what people think about devices being a golden time opportunity. Primary 6 and 7 pupils are being surveyed over the next couple of weeks as are staff involved in golden time; we would appreciate your thoughts on this matter too.

You may find some background information helpful to inform your views. Part of the positive behaviour management policy within the primary at Breadalbane Academy is pupils earn golden time throughout the week by following our golden rules. Every pupil starts the week with five minutes of golden time and has the potential to earn five minutes every day resulting in 30 minutes golden time by the end of the week. Primary 4-7 pupils select which activity they would like to do from a number of choices every week such as football, craft, Just Dance, games, drawing and film and go to a specific classroom for that activity. For many years devices have been offered to Primary 7 pupils – this has traditionally involved pupils bringing in a device from home to use in class. Some pupils use their device individually and others use it with friends, for example playing games.

Primary 7 pupils have been informed about this opportunity from class teachers at the start of the academic session. This year there were some parental queries which have been followed up on an individual basis. However, we recognise that some form of written communication outlining the opportunity would have been useful and in most cases, avoided the need for the individual questions. Therefore, should the use of devices continue this will be issued in future. As with all mobile phone use within the school, the school policy outlines our expectations and requirements. This was issued to primary parents when it came out and has also been discussed with pupils on a number of occasions. The policy can be found on the school website:

<http://www.babreadalbane.mtcserver.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Mobile-phone-policy-final-March2016.pdf>



Some of our Primary 7 pupils view the opportunity to use devices almost as a right of passage which is why we feel it is important to ascertain not just current Primary 7 but also Primary 6 pupil and parental views. To this end, we would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete our survey which can be found at <https://goo.gl/forms/gEY1DF8CEMocAoJ73> . It would be helpful if you could complete it by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. After this date our office staff will phone parents who have not yet had the opportunity to share their views to help ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Once all three surveys have been collated I will write to you again with the results and outcome. There will also be an update at the Parent Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views.

**Mrs Marshall**  
**DHT Primary**