



19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Mobile Phone Pouches – Further Information

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your responses, questions, and feedback regarding our upcoming shift to a mobile-free school environment. Your insights are incredibly valuable to us, and we are deeply grateful for the supportive spirit in which they were shared.

We completely understand that any significant change to school routines brings natural questions and, at times, concerns. Please rest assured that our decision-making is deeply rooted in careful, deliberate thought. Our goal is twofold: to respond proactively to national trends and educational direction, and, most importantly, to ensure our students have the best possible learning and social experiences while they are in our care. We have already seen this pouch system implemented with great success at a fellow TCT school, and we are entirely confident that it will bring nothing but positive results for our students' focus and well-being.

To help prepare for the next steps together, we want to provide some further details on how the system will work in practice:

- **To and From School:** The pouches will be owned by families. Students will place their phones into their pouches during AM tutor time and unlock them as they leave at the end of the day. By operating this way, we will not be creating any safeguarding issues with a lack of access to phones on journeys to and from school.
- **Contacting Your Child:** As is the case currently, if you need to reach your child during the school day for an urgent matter, you can easily do so through our usual school reception channels.
- **Arrival and Departure:** Over the summer, we are installing 30 unlocking stations spread out along both driveways to ensure students can exit efficiently. Independent unlocking stations will also be available in key internal areas like Student Services and Reception. The pouches unlock incredibly quickly with a simple touch to the magnetic base.
- **Medical Exemptions:** Students with medical conditions that rely on a mobile device—such as diabetic students who use a phone to monitor blood glucose levels—will be fully exempt from using a pouch. If we do not already hold medical evidence of your child's condition, please provide this to us so we can formally award the exemption.
- **Policy and Equipment:** The pouch will now be a compulsory item on our school equipment list. When finalised, you will receive a copy of our updated Behaviour Policy outlining these updates. Students who forget their pouch will need to hand their phone in centrally and they will not be available for collection until 15:45 on the same day.
- **Financial Support:** As mentioned previously, we want to ensure this transition is smooth for everyone. If you feel you require financial assistance to purchase a pouch, please reach out to us discreetly at [admin@riddlesdown.org](mailto:admin@riddlesdown.org) to register your request.

Looking further ahead, we will also be operating a 'buy back' scheme at the end of Year 11. If your child's pouch is in excellent condition when they finish their GCSEs, the school will offer to purchase it back from you at full cost price.

We are incredibly appreciative of your continued partnership. By working hand-in-hand, we can ensure our students enjoy a vibrant, focused, and mobile-free educational experience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J A Vass', written in a cursive style.

Mr J A Vass

Deputy Principal