



5th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to share an important update regarding our school's commitment to fostering a focused, social, and distraction-free environment for our students.

Following a review of our current digital wellbeing strategies and in line with national educational trends, Riddlesdown Collegiate will be moving to a compulsory signal blocking mobile phone pouch system starting in September 2026.

We recognise that while technology is a vital part of modern life, the presence of mobile phones in schools often presents more challenges than benefits. By becoming a "mobile-free" site during school hours, we aim to achieve:

- **Improved Academic Focus:** Removing the distraction of notifications allows students to engage more deeply with their learning.
- **Enhanced Social Interaction:** We anticipate a significant increase in face-to-face communication and active play during break and lunch times.
- **Mental Wellbeing:** A phone-free environment provides a "digital detox," reducing the pressures of social media during the school day.
- **Safety and Safeguarding:** By using pouches, we significantly minimise the "temptation" for students to check their phones during the day. This reduces the need for confiscations, ensuring students always have their devices in their possession for a safe journey to and from school. This removes any potential safeguarding concerns regarding a student being without their phone while travelling off-site.

From the start of the autumn term, every student will be required to place their mobile phone in a secure, signal-blocking pouch upon arrival. The pouch remains in the student's possession but is locked until the end of the school day.

- **Cost:** The cost for the individual security pouch is **£15.80**.
- **Payment:** This is now available to purchase via **ParentPay**.

We are mindful that the current economic climate affects families differently. To ensure every student is prepared for September, we have introduced a '**Pay It Forward**' option on ParentPay. If you feel you are in a position to do so, you may choose to purchase a "spare" pouch. These contributions will be used to provide pouches for families currently facing financial difficulty.

For families eligible for Pupil Premium or those requiring direct financial support, please contact admin@riddlesdown.org in confidence.

We understand that this represents a shift in daily routine. Over the coming weeks, we will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure everyone is clear how this change will be implemented into our daily procedures. Further updates on how this change will be reflected in our updated Behaviour Policy—including expectations for care of the equipment and sanctions for non-compliance—will be shared with you later in the school year.

We are excited about the positive impact this will have on our school culture and thank you for your continued support in helping our students flourish.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D A Osborne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and 'O'.

Mr D A Osborne
Principal