

Dear Parents and Carers,

16th September 2026

Re: Introduction of Mobile Phone Pouches

I am writing to let you know that from tomorrow we will be introducing mobile phone pouches for all students at The Portsmouth Academy.

We recognise that mobile phones are an important part of modern life and that many families value being able to stay connected. This initiative is not about preventing communication with home, but about creating the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing and positive social interaction throughout the school day. The arrangements outlined below are based on the new phone pouch process being introduced across the academy.

As a school, we want every student to be fully present in their lessons, focused on their learning and able to build positive relationships with their peers without the distractions that mobile phones can sometimes create. We know that many schools across the country have successfully adopted similar approaches and have seen improvements in concentration, engagement and social interaction.

From tomorrow:

- Students will place their mobile phone and any earphones into a secure pouch at the start of the day and lock it.
- The pouch will remain in their possession throughout the day.
- Students will keep the locked pouch with them during lessons.
- If a student has permission to leave site during the school day, arrangements will be in place for the pouch to be unlocked and then secured again on their return.
- At the end of the school day, staff will supervise unlocking points so that students can access their phones before leaving the academy.

We appreciate that some parents and carers may have questions or concerns about this change. Please be reassured that if you need to contact your child in an emergency during the school day, you can continue to do so through Reception, and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly. Equally, if your child needs to contact home during the day, support will be available through Student Services.

We know that introducing any new routine can take time, and we will be supporting students carefully throughout the implementation process. Our aim is not simply to remove distractions but to help create a calmer, more focused school environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together, we can ensure that our students make the most of every lesson, every opportunity and the many positive interactions that take place throughout the school day.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Dedman
Headteacher
The Portsmouth Academy