



Friday 19th July 2026

Moving to a Phone & Electronic Device Free School from September 2026

Dear Families,

I am writing to share an important development in our approach to supporting pupils' learning, wellbeing and safety. From September 2026, in line with the Department for Education's expectations, we will become a fully phone and electronic device free school for all pupils in Years 7 to 11.

I am sure you will agree that this is a positive step. Reducing access to mobile devices during the school day will help pupils to focus more fully on their learning, develop stronger relationships with their peers, and enjoy valuable time away from screens. Schools that have already introduced similar approaches report increased engagement in lessons, improved behaviour, and stronger social interaction - all of which can only be a good thing for our pupils.

How this will work

We will be using the Yondr pouch system, which has been successfully implemented in many schools.

This system allows pupils to bring their phone and other electronic devices to school if they wish, but ensures that they are securely stored and inaccessible throughout the school day.

A full copy of our policy can be found [here](#), but some key points are outlined below:

- The policy applies to all pupils in Years 7 to 11
- If pupils choose to bring a mobile phone or electronic device to school, it must be secured in a Yondr pouch for the entire school day
- This includes devices such as:
 - Mobile phones
 - Smartwatches
 - Earbuds/headphones
 - Tablets or electronic gaming devices
 - Any internet-enabled or communication device
- Each pupil will be provided with their initial Yondr pouch free of charge
- Any lost or damaged pouches will need to be replaced by families at a cost of around £15



- For pupils with medical conditions that require access to a mobile device an alternative will be provided; we will share with families details on this as required.

Please note that bringing a mobile device to school is not required - pupils may choose to leave devices at home.

If a pupil is found to have any mobile device on them and it is not stored in their pouch, it will be confiscated and families will need to collect this from the school reception. Repeat incidents of this will be dealt with in line with our typical response framework which can be seen in our behaviour policy.

Communication during the school day

If you need to contact your child urgently during school hours, please do so via the school office. Messages will be passed on to pupils where necessary, ensuring communication remains effective without disrupting learning.

Sixth form expectations

Sixth form pupils will not be expected to follow the same procedures as lower school students with regard to the use of a Yondr pouch. However, they will be expected to use mobile devices only in designated areas. At St Thomas More, this is limited to the sixth form centre.

In the unlikely event that a pupil is seen using a mobile device outside of this area, they will be asked to hand it to the sixth form team for safe keeping until the end of the day.

Working together

Supporting pupils to have time away from their devices during the school day will benefit them in many ways - academically, socially and emotionally. We are confident this change will have a lasting positive impact, and I know that we can rely on your support as we implement this important step.



Further information

We will be holding an online information session for families on Wednesday 1st July at 5:00pm, where we will share further details and demonstrate how the pouches work. Please see a link to the session, below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmMwNTg0YTgtOGQzNi00NDA4LWJhNDAtYWJiZDYwN2EwZDIw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22dc2301ac-9dcf-41af-92b8-6eed97a5fa4%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222f5d12a8-3aa4-4131-bf0f-05a2c872e246%22%7d

A reminder about this session will be shared closer to the date.

Next steps

All pupils will be issued with their Yondr pouch in September by their tutor. We will ensure that clear communication regarding expectations is shared with every pupil. We will also share a further update to families at this time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner

Head Teacher