



Park Vale
Academy

Park Vale Academy

Top Valley Drive

Top Valley

Nottingham

NG5 9AZ

0115 8221244

admin@parkvaleacademy.org.uk

www.parkvaleacademy.org.uk

Head of School: Mrs N Pearson

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Bowhay

Dear Parent,

25th March 2025

Year 7 Phone Pouches

As we continue to strive for the best learning environment for our students, we are constantly looking for ways to improve focus and reduce distractions. One area of concern is the use of mobile phones in school and the temptation for students to check them during the day, despite existing rules around the use of this technology in school. We regularly hear from parents that they are also concerned about the amount of time their children spend on phones and the negative impact it is having on their wellbeing. They are also sometimes a contributing factor in bullying incidents and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

To address this, Park Vale Academy, along with some other schools in the Redhill Academy Trust will be participating in a trial during the summer term where all Year 7 students will be provided with a lockable mobile phone pouch. Students will keep these pouches with them at all times but will be expected to place their phones into the locked pouch before they arrive at school. They will be able to unlock their cases on their way out of school using a magnetic unlocking device. Pouches will be collected back in at the end of the summer term. There will be a small charge if students lose or damage their pouch.

We believe that this initiative will significantly improve concentration by removing the distraction of mobile phones. Students will keep their pouches in their bags throughout the school day, ensuring that they are not tempted to use their phones during lessons or breaks.

In the event of an emergency where a student needs to use their phone, they can ask a member of staff to unlock their phone pouch for them. If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should phone the main reception, and we will ensure the message is passed on promptly.

We understand that both students and parents appreciate the reassurance of having a mobile phone, especially when travelling to and from school. However, we believe that being in school without the distraction and temptation of using a phone will greatly benefit students' wellbeing and their ability to focus on their studies. Feedback from other schools who have been using similar systems for many years has been extremely positive.

REDHILL
ACADEMY TRUST



Equality and Achievement



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We will be seeking feedback from students, parents and staff throughout the trial to assess its effectiveness and determine whether we will continue with this approach in the next academic year.

Thank you for your support as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Bowhay
Headteacher