



Hall Park
Academy

Hall Park Academy

Mansfield Road

Eastwood

Nottingham

NG16 3EA

01773 786212

office@hallparkacademy.org.uk

www.hallparkacademy.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Crossley

April 2025

Dear Year 7 Parent/Carer

Phone Pouch Pilot

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 mobile phones 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 this has on their wellbeing.

To address this, Hall Park Academy, along with some other schools in The Redhill Academy Trust, will be piloting a phone-free trial. All Year 7 students will be provided with a lockable mobile phone pouch. Students will place their phones into the locked pouch before they arrive at school. This will be checked during the first lesson of the day. Students will always keep their phones with them in their pouches, in their bags, ensuring that they are not tempted to use their phones during lessons or breaks. They will be able to unlock their phone pouches on the way out of school using a magnetic unlocking device.

We believe that this will significantly improve concentration by removing the distraction of mobile phones. 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.

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 call the school reception, and we will ensure the message is passed on promptly. We will be welcoming feedback throughout the pilot.

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.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students. If you have any queries, please use the contact form on the school website.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Crossley
Headteacher