



Ref: MLA/JWA – 0626.01.LS

26 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Updated Mobile-Phone Policy

I hope this letter finds you well and apologise in advance for this lengthy letter. As we approach the end of the current academic year, I am sharing some important updates regarding our mobile phone policy and the rationale behind these changes.

As it currently stands, our policy on mobile phones is that they are not permitted to be seen or used on school grounds. Our primary focus is always the physical and mental wellbeing and safeguarding of our students. After careful consideration based on parental, students and staff feedback along with consultation with experts, we have decided to implement a new policy approach regarding mobile phone usage at our school from September 2026.

From **September 2026** all students who bring a mobile phone or digital device (including AirPods/headphones) to school must secure it in a *huSH* pouch on arrival. The pouch locks instantly and stays with the student; it can only be unlocked when they leave site (or after any detention). *huSH* pouches are a practical solution that allow students to keep their phones with them without the temptation and/or ability to use them.

This is the **only** change to our current “**phones-out-of-sight**” rule.

### Why the change?

- **Learning & focus** – Removing access during lessons cuts distraction and improves engagement.
- **Wellbeing** – Research links heavy phone use with higher anxiety, lower mood and disrupted sleep.
- **Safeguarding** – Limiting unsupervised access reduces cyber-bullying, misuse of cameras and exposure to inappropriate content.
- **Government guidance** – The [DfE advises](#) schools to keep phones inaccessible during the day to minimise disruption and improve wellbeing.

### How the *huSH* system works

1. **Arrival:** Student places phone/ear-buds in their personal pouch.
2. **During the day:** Device remains locked and in the student’s possession.
3. **Leaving school:** Student taps the pouch on an unlocking base and retrieves the phone.



The school will issue each student with one pouch free of charge; if a replacement is required they must be purchased via Arbor Pay if lost or damaged. Students who need phone access for medical monitoring (e.g. diabetes) will receive adjusted arrangements. If you have not already made us aware of such a medical need, please contact the Academy via the contact details below. Students will be expected to return their pouch when they leave in Year 11 in order to reduce waste and support the manufacturer with recycling.

### **Expectations & consequences**

- **All** devices on site must be in a locked pouch.
- Attempts to hide, use or bypass the system will be treated as a serious breach of the behaviour policy.
- Refusal to comply may lead to removal from circulation or suspension; phones may be confiscated and collected only by a parent/carer after school.

This policy update has been carefully planned to balance the need for communication with parents and the necessity of maintaining a conducive learning environment. We understand that there may be occasions when students need to use their phones, and we have established protocols to handle these situations appropriately.

### **Support & further information**

- Student assemblies:  
Years 7 – 10 assemblies have taken place this week and further assemblies are planned for September.
- Government guidance:  
[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions:  
[huSH FAQs](#)

If you have questions, contact the main office on [enquiries@thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk) or 01782 883500.

We believe that this new policy will significantly contribute to the wellbeing and safety of our students.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and partnership in making our school a positive and secure place for our students to thrive and succeed.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Lawrence  
Principal