



Northgate High School

Inspiring excellence, fulfilling potential

Dereham Norfolk NR19 2EU

Telephone: 01362 697033

Email: office@northgate.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.northgate.norfolk.sch.uk

Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA: Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following non-statutory guidance the DfE published in January 2024, The Education Committee's report and responses on "Screen time: impacts on education and wellbeing" in May 2025 and further reports and discussion about mobile devices in Parliament we are making a change to the way we ask students in years 7-11 to store their mobile phone when they are in school. **This is not a policy change but a practical change in process.**

At present we have a robust and clear electronic device policy that complies with the non-statutory guidance. This states that the school does not permit the use of mobile phones (including seeing or hearing) for all students whilst on site until 3.15pm. The consequences for students are well understood and followed by the vast majority. This being said we are aware there are aspects of this approach that cannot be fully monitored and as such we want to further improve the consistency of our approach so students and staff can focus solely on the experience of learning rather than the impact of mobile phone use on children's mental health, wellbeing and the distraction from teaching and learning.

We know that mobile phones are such an integral part of life, however through working with our young people and as parents/carers we know that phones are addictive and excess use is mentally and physically harmful. As a school we will be moving to a system with greater clarity, it will support students at our school to have a fixed period in their lives every day that is fully phone free. As a school we believe this clarity is important and will provide benefits to student's mental and physical health as well as supporting concentration and socialisation. Students will benefit from having time every school day when they cannot access or be alerted by their phone.

We will be working with a provider of mobile phone signal blocking pouches called 'Hush'. When we return in September, all students will be issued with a phone pouch. From then on, where a student brings a mobile phone into school, it will need to be stored securely with them, in the pouch. The phone pouches belong to the school but must be kept and used by the student if they wish to bring a mobile phone into our school. Each mobile phone pouch is lockable and students will lock their phone in the pouch at the start of the day and unlock it at the end of the day. There will be multiple unlocking stations at the entrances/exits to our site and this routine will become just part of a student's everyday life at our school.

More information on the Hush devices is available here: [Hush Pouch | UK's Leading Lockable Phone Pouches](#)

The consequences of not following expectations will be clear to students and will involve confiscation and detentions following our updated Attitudes to Learning Policy and updated Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy. We will use regular checks at PART and at different points in the day if necessary to ensure students are following expectations. Many schools are following this approach both locally and nationally. As a school we are taking this step now because we believe it is the right thing for our students, they need our support as a school and as parents/carers to set and hold boundaries with regard to mobile phones for their long term wellbeing.

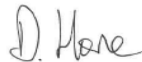


We strongly believe that this is the correct approach rather than a complete ban as seen recently in some schools.

Today we have held a series of assemblies for students in all years to support their preparation for this whole school development. At the end of this letter we have included a link to frequently asked questions for further information and would be happy to answer any initial questions that parents/carers have if not already addressed in the FAQ. There is also a link to the assembly and supporting information we have shared with students.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone

Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA
Members of Unity Education Trust

Enc.

Frequently Asked Questions: [FAQ – Hush Pouch](#)

Assembly information to students: [Mobile Phone Information 2025](#)