



Faringdon Community College
Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7LB

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Studentservices@fcc.cambrianlt.org

www.fccoxon.co.uk



FARINGDON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wednesday 20th May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Important – Introduction of Secure Lockable Phone Pouch System at Faringdon Community College

We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching, safeguarding and learning using a secure lockable phone pouch system. This is in line with the latest Department for Education guidelines which make clear schools must be phone-free. This will go live at Faringdon Community College from Monday 29th June 2026. Every student in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be issued with a secure, lockable phone pouch. Please note that this will not affect our current Year 11 cohort as they will have finished school for the year after the completion of their GCSE examinations. Students in Year 12 and 13 will not be issued with a phone pouch but will only be able to use their phone in specific designated areas of the school.

These systems have been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate an engaged and safer learning environment. Local schools to us have successfully implemented the same systems, and we are confident the secure lockable phone pouches will have a positive impact here as well.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning, safeguarding, and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned secure pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their phone pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

This is a significant change and one which I know all parents and carers will support us with. If your child refuses to follow school policy or is seen to be deliberately damaging, their pouch sanctions will be applied, and a replacement pouch will be expected to be purchased by parents at a charge of £9.00.

Any student failing to comply with the daily practices around placing mobile phones into pouches will be placed into Reflection. Persistent defiance will lead to increased sanctions.

A recent survey of over 900 schools measured the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**
- **86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness**

As always, if there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please contact reception on 01367 240375.



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FCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and individuals.

Headteacher: Lisa Barker. Chair of Governors: Paul Ray

Cambrian Learning Trust is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee.

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The second page of this letter contains a FAQ section which hopefully addresses any questions that you may have. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Further communication will be sent out to you following the half term break.

To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the secure lockable phone pouch program at our school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Barker
Headteacher

Secure Lockable Phone Pouch FAQ's

When will my child's pouch be unlocked?

Pouches will be unlocked when students leave at the end of the day. It is an incredibly quick process so learning time will not be lost. Students should unlock their pouch at a fixed unlocking location and then continue moving before taking their phone out of the pouch. Some end of day supervisors also have hand held detachers to assist.

What if my child forgets to unlock their pouch?

Reception will have an unlocking device should students forget to unlock their phone at the end of the day.

What happens if a child forgets the pouch and leaves it at home? Can you provide formal guidance/policy as to why a child should become responsible for these pouches?

If a child forgets their pouch they will be expected to hand their phone into student services where it will be placed in the safe and collected at the end of the day.

Have the bus companies been warned that the children may be delayed in coming out of school in the first week or two as the scheme beds in? They need to be aware of possible delays.

We will be making the bus companies aware, however the pouch system and unlocking will not cause delays to the children exiting school.

Will the unlocking device be with teachers or outside?

There will be unlocking stations at student exit points from the school and duty staff at these areas will have hand held devices to unlock pouches also.

How do you know this is going to make a difference here?



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This approach has been introduced previously at other schools and they have seen a significant impact on behaviour and wellbeing. Much has been in the press about smartphones and the impact on young people. We want to keep our young people safe, happy and free from pressures whilst in school.

What will be outcome if children breach policy? Eg they have decoy phone in pouch. What is policy on smart watches?

Where we suspect a child has not placed the correct phone in the pouch the student will be spoken to and if found to be in a possession of a second phone, ear pods or smart watches, will be placed initially into internal exclusion and for persistent breaches of school policy increased sanctions will be applied

Does this only apply to smart phones?

The policy applies to all mobile devices.



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