

11th September 2025

Dear Families,

As we communicated before the summer break, we will be introducing Yondr phone pouches for all students after October half term. You may have seen in the news over the summer several pieces evidencing the detrimental impact of phones being accessible during the school day and locking them away certainly seems to be the approach most schools are taking. RBWM are encouraging all schools to adopt this approach and aim to be a 'phone free borough' by the end of 2026.

We are asking parents to pay £18 for a Yondr pouch by **Friday 17th October**. This is a one-off payment because the pouch can be used throughout their time at Altwood. This has been set up on Scopay by the Finance team and can be made in two payments of £9 if that is helpful.

We do appreciate the financial pressures families are under and, as a school, avoid additional charges wherever possible for things like clubs and events. We feel this initiative is too important to delay however, and so kindly ask you to support us by purchasing a pouch with the following exceptions:

- Students in receipt of **Pupil Premium funding do NOT need to purchase a pouch**. These will be provided for your children free of charge.
- Students with **diabetes** will be issued with a special medical pouch **free of charge**.
- For this year only, as we roll out this initiative across the school, families with more than one child at school should **purchase 1 pouch**. We will fund the additional pouches for siblings at Altwood.
- We would also like sixth form students to purchase a pouch but they will have access to an unlocking station so they can use their phones in their study periods and whilst in the Sixth Form Common Room.
- Year 11 and 13 students will be able to 'sell' their pouches back to the school at the end of the year for £10 if they are in excellent condition.
- If you are struggling to afford the £18 please get in touch and we will do everything we can to support.

Any family who does not want to purchase a pouch for their child for reasons other than financial difficulties will need to remind their child that they will have to hand their phone in to reception daily and collect it before leaving school or sign a form to say their child will not bring a mobile phone to school.

No mobile phones will be allowed on the school site, except when in a locked Yondr pouch, from Tuesday 4th November.

More information about this roll-out, as well as the opportunity to ask any questions about the new policy, will be provided over the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your support in making Altwood a mentally healthy and phone free space for our young people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cath Harden'.

Cath Harden
Headteacher