

1 September 2025

Dear Students/ Parents/ Guardian

Introducing Our New Voluntary Mobile Phone Hand-In Programme for Year 7

We are very excited to welcome our new Year 7 students on Wednesday, 3rd September, for their first day at MER. In preparation for this important transition, we are piloting a new **voluntary** mobile phone hand-in initiative for Year 7 students, starting from the beginning of the term.

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a calm, focused, and safe learning environment, this programme aims to support our newest students in settling into secondary school with fewer distractions and more opportunities to build positive, face-to-face relationships.

We have found that managing mobile phone use early helps reduce common issues such as online conflicts, social pressure, and reduced concentration during lesson.

How the initiative works:

- Students will hand in their phones to their tutor during morning line-up.
- Phones will be securely stored in the KS3 Office throughout the school day.
- Students will collect their phones from their Head of Year at the end of the day.

While **participation is voluntary**, we strongly encourage families to take part. Similar programmes in other schools have shown a positive impact on student focus, behaviour, and overall wellbeing. This is particularly true for Year 7s making the significant leap from primary to secondary education.

We will regularly review the initiative and will keep you updated on its progress. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the programme further, please feel free to get in contact with us.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to give your child the best possible start to secondary school life.

Warm regards,

Ms. Baxter

Head of Year 7

