

IN TOUCH



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the final 'In Touch' newsletter of this academic year. I hope that you've found our regular communication helpful. We've certainly appreciated the feedback that you've sent us through our ParentPulse surveys and are heartened by the many positive comments received and the useful advice provided. I'm delighted to say that feedback on the family lunch has been positive and we will be continuing with this in the new academic year for our KS3 students.

When talking to parents one issue that often crops up is their concern around the use (and misuse or overuse) of mobile phones by young people. In line with most other schools and the government's advice, we already have a clear policy that students should not use their phones in school. From September we will be taking further practical steps to ensure that this policy is enforced fairly and securely using a new system of Yondr pouches which we have explained more fully below. I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this initiative.

Inevitably at this time of year some of our staff move on to new opportunities and we wish all those who are leaving well and they go with our blessings and best wishes. I would also like to wish our chaplain Fr Greg all the best for the next academic year when we will be 'loaning' him out to another school to complete a further period of teacher training but I'm delighted to say that he'll be remaining in the Salesian Community next door and returning the following year.

Finally, I'd like to place on record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to another successful year at SJBC. None of the great things that have been achieved at school this year would be possible without the hard work, talent and dedication of our teachers and support staff, nor would we be able to provide so many opportunities for our young people without the support of our parents, families, and the local community. The proverb, 'it takes a village to raise a child' has perhaps been overused at times but on behalf of the school I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to building that village and wish you a happy, relaxing, and hopefully sunny, summer break. We look forward to seeing your children back at school in the week beginning 2 September. Details of the return can be found at the bottom of this 'In Touch'.



KEY DATES

Thursday, 15th August

● A Levels examination results

Thursday, 22nd August

● GCSEs examination results

Tuesday, 3rd September

● 6th form enrolment day
Year 7 induction day from 8.40am until 1.00pm

Wednesday, 4th September

● Year 12 and 13 induction
Year 7 induction part 2
Year 11 start assembly P3

Thursday, 5th September

● Year 7, 12 and 13 lessons
Year 10 return /Assembly P1
Year 9 return /Assembly P2
Year 8 return /Assembly P3

[sjbc_battersea](https://www.sjbc-battersea.org)



[St John Bosco College](https://www.stjohnbosco.org)



[@SJBC_London](https://www.twitter.com/SJBC_London)



[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/SJBCWandsworth)



Use of mobile phones in school DfE Guidance



Department
for Education

As we end the term we now look forward to the next academic year and are delighted to share another exciting improvement that will begin in September. In February the DfE released new guidance to schools regarding mobile phones. This guidance (which can be read in full using the link [here](#)) makes explicitly clear that schools have an obligation to prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day.

Today's children are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities – but also challenges.

By prohibiting mobile phones, schools can create safe and calm environments free from distraction so all pupils can receive the education they deserve.



How will we meet this requirement at SJBC?

In September we are enhancing how we operate the current policy of no phones in school. To do this we will be introducing Yondr pouches. You may have come across these before as they are growing in popularity across the concert venue sector, you can read more about how these work on their website below.

[www !\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) https://www.veryondr.com](https://www.veryondr.com)

In essence, Yondr pouches work by preventing students from using their phones during the school day but without the complication of them needing to hand them over. A 30 second tutorial of how they work can be seen here.

[www !\[\]\(6a9b39b98eb945faa14c645ec99e4eaa_img.jpg\) Yondr Pouch Tutorial](#)

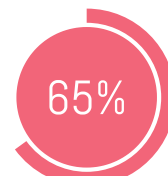
Statistics on Yondr's website state that



Schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom.



Schools saw an improvement in student behaviour.



Schools saw an improvement in academic performance.

NEW ROUTINE



When students arrive at school we will provide them with a Yondr pouch.



They place their phone in pouch and lock it. Students then place the pouch in their bag and keep it on them throughout the day.



When exiting the building students will unlock the pouch using a Yondr magnet located at the gate.



The pouch is then handed back ready to be used the following day.

It is understandable that some students may have reservations around this change. As adults we know the importance of using mobile devices appropriately and understand the importance of moderating screen use.

Yondr gives your students a true break from their mobile phones, no notifications, no temptation and no distractions. This is rare in modern life, especially for teenagers who are now spending upwards of 8 hours on their phone per day.

Parents are reminded that if they need to contact their child/or their child needs to contact them, that we are able to do this through reception who will ensure messages are delivered.