

ACR/gbo

June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Re: A proposed move to a smartphone-free school – we would like your view

I am writing to consult you on an important proposal for The Quest Academy concerning the use of smartphones during the school day. No decision has yet been taken, and your views as parents and carers will directly inform the position we adopt.

We are proposing that The Quest Academy becomes a **smartphone-free school**. Under this proposal, students in Years 7 to 11 would not bring a smartphone into school at all. This is a clear step on from our current rule, under which phones must be switched off and not seen or heard while on school premises.

To be clear about what this covers: by smartphone we mean any internet-enabled mobile phone or device with a touchscreen that can access the internet and social media, run apps, and take photos and videos, such as an iPhone or an Android phone; it also **includes smartwatches** with the same functions.

We believe this change would be good for our students. A school day free of smartphones means fewer distractions and stronger focus in lessons; a real break from social media and online pressure; calmer, and more sociable break times. The students who find phones hardest to put down would be supported by a consistent rule that applies to everyone.




This also reflects the clear national direction. Updated government guidance, published in January 2026, says all schools should be phone-free by default, and from 29 June 2026 this guidance has the force of law. On 15 June 2026, the government announced that it will ban social media for under-16s, with the new rules expected in Spring 2027. Our proposal brings TQA in step with this, and protects students in the meantime.

We know the question many of you will ask first is about safety and staying in touch. We take this seriously, and there is an important point that is often missed: a smartphone is frequently the **least** safe option, because it is expensive and a common target for thieves. There are cheaper and safer ways to keep your child contactable and to know where they are, such as a discreet location tracker and, if needed, a basic phone for calls and texts only. The enclosed summary sheet explains these options, with examples.

No decision has been made. Your view will genuinely shape what we do next. Please take a few minutes to complete our short online form and tell us what you think.

Executive Principal: Mr A. Crofts BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

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Share your views: our online form

Please complete our short online form to tell us what you think. It takes less than a minute.

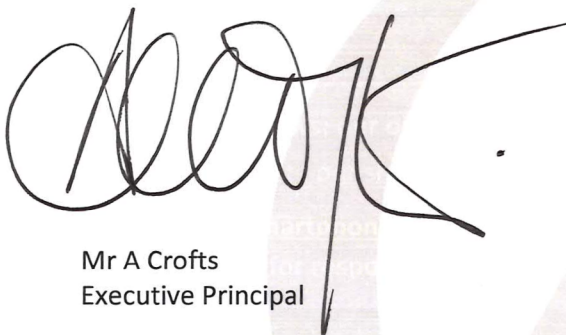
Form link: [Smartphone-free proposal](#) | [Parent voice – Fill out form](#)

Closing date for responses: Friday 3rd July

Alongside this letter you will find a short summary of the proposal. It explains our reasoning in more detail, sets out safer and cheaper ways for your child to stay in touch without a smartphone, answers the questions parents most often ask, including emergency contact, travelling to school and medical needs, and points you to further support. Please read it before sharing your views.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to share your view. Working together, we want to make the best possible decision for our students.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Crofts
Executive Principal