

THE WEEK AT WOA

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Having taken receipt of our Yondr phone pouches today, we will be dedicating this newsletter to sharing the final plans for Phone Free WOA:

1. All students have had phone-free assemblies this week hosted by Miss Morgan and Miss Lyn-Kew. They have had the opportunity to see and use the pouch system and have been introduced to our SEAL and DROP Routines. They also shared some shocking statistics regarding phone use and its effect on daily life and mental health and wellbeing.
2. Staff were all trained on the Yondr system as part of our Staff Training Day on Monday. They even went phone-free for the training, locking their devices away in the pouches.
3. Our Parents Guide to Phone-Free has been sent to all families via Arbor, alongside our social media updates from Miss Moore. Please do take some time to read and view these as they are really helpful in answering any questions about what Phone-Free looks like at WOA.
4. From Monday 6th July we are soft-Launching the pouch system with years 7 to 10. This will allow everyone to familiarise themselves with the system and to ensure everything is in place for our full launch with all year groups from September. On arrival to school every child will collect a pouch lock away their phone whilst on site. They will keep the pouch with them. At the end of the day they will unlock their devices and leave their pouches in the collection basket.

We thank you in advance for your continuing support of our phone-free strategy as we know this is invaluable in supporting every child's learning and wellbeing.

If you have any questions regarding our phone-free strategy please do email phonefree@woacademy.co.uk

Morning Routine SEAL

Students must complete the SEAL routine when entering school.

- S – Show your phone**
Students present their mobile phone to staff at the entrance. It must be switched off. Double Tap to prove it!
- E – Examine the pouch and phone**
Staff visually check the pouch and confirm the phone is genuine and functioning.
- A – Add the phone**
The student places their phone into the pouch and place their name card into the holder.
- L – Lock it securely**
Staff lock the pouch and check it is fully secured. Once sealed, the phone must remain in the pouch until the end of the school day.

End of Day Routine DROP

Students must complete the DROP routine at one of the designated unlocking stations.

- D – Disengage the lock**
Staff unlock the pouch.
- R – Remove your phone**
The student removes their mobile phone.
- O – Observe the pouch**
Staff carry out a quick visual check for damage or tampering.
- P – Place pouch in return bin**
The pouch is returned to staff for reuse and inspection. Students must not leave site with a pouch.

#gottobeinittowinit #attendtoachieve #fomofriday #believeachieversucceed #changinglives #5dayattendancestreak #phonefreewoa

ATTEND TO ACHIEVE

Our top attending tutor groups of the week are ...



7SFR
8FLE
9JBI
10CTA



Each will collect their attendance winner trophy full of sweets to share on Monday 6th July.

The Year group with the most improved attenders' week on week and have collected their treat during the wheel of wonder this afternoon.

#attendtoachieve

#missitmissout

KEY DATES – SUMMER TERM

Wednesday 8th July – Y7 Parents Evening

Thursday 16th July – Sports Day

Friday 17th July – Break up for the end of Summer Term

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Parents and carers have received an email invitation to set up access to the Arbor Parent Portal and App.

This will become the main way the school communicates with families. Through Arbor, you will be able to:

- View key information about your child
- Receive school messages and updates
- Check attendance information



HOUSE POINT LEADERBOARD



Our House point leaderboard is back!

1st Place **Dickens** 8028 points

2nd Place **Bronte** 8027 points

3rd Place **Austen** 7206 points

4th Place **Shakespeare** 5619 points.

Remember you can earn house points every day!

Top earning tutor groups are: 7LBR, 8EWT 9JHI, and 10JLG! Well done everyone.



RAISING ACHIEVEMENT

Year 10 your Step-Up journey continues! Well done to those of who have attended and engaged well with their interventions; it is fantastic to see the positive impact they are having already!

Session 6 taster sessions have started and Y10 you have really stepped up in taking on the challenge of revising and applying your learning.

We have also been hugely impressed by all of the Y10 students that have taken part in BTEC booster days this week. There are more to come next week, alongside a vital trip for all geographers on Monday or Wednesday as you will be visiting a case study that you will use in your real GCSE exams next year.

Well done Y10 – continue to keep stepping up!

PHONE-FREE WOA



A PHONE FREE REMINDER - Communications, routines and plans are in place and have been shared with families, students and staff.

We truly believe that going phone free will have a massive impact on the mental health and well-being of all our pupils and are thankful for your support in enabling us to achieve this. Please reach out if you have any questions or queries: phonefree@woacademy.co.uk

WE CARE – USEFUL INFORMATION

Reminders:

1. Only talk to people you know on line
2. Only organise to meet people in safe places
3. Walk each other home – don't stay out too late!
4. If you see anything that concerns you – don't forget to run, hide, tell!

If you have a concern out of school hours please contact:

Police – 999 (emergency) 101 (non-emergency)

NSPCC – 0800 800 5000 (Text 88858)

Sandwell Children's Services team – 0121 569 3100

For support, please contact:

ChildLine – 0800 1111

Samaritans – 116 123