



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

STATE SECONDARY
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
LONDON

30 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mobile Phone Use

I am writing to raise a concern regarding the use of mobile phones among students in Year 7. I appreciate that this will not apply to all students and that some do not have a mobile phone. As part of our commitment to creating a safe and focused learning environment, students are not permitted to use mobile phones anywhere on the school premises. This includes before and after school hours. If a student is seen using their phone, it will be confiscated in line with our school policy.

Students in Year 7 are not expected to use mobile phones during lessons under any circumstances. I would appreciate being informed if they are asked to, so that we can ensure consistency across the year group.

It has come to my attention that a large WhatsApp group chat involving some Year 7 students is active and generating a high volume of messages. This is having a negative impact on students' wellbeing, particularly in terms of screen time, sleep routines and emotional regulation. I strongly encourage students to leave this group and to avoid joining similar chats at this time. It is important to note that the minimum age for WhatsApp use in the United Kingdom is 13. Therefore, students in Year 7 should not be using this platform or participating in group chats.

I am also concerned about students using their phones to take photographs of other students or staff. This behaviour is not acceptable and asking staff to appear in selfies or videos is entirely inappropriate.

I kindly ask that you speak with your daughter about responsible phone use and ensure that appropriate parental controls are in place at home. For further guidance, the NSPCC offers helpful resources on age-appropriate access to technology: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages>

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

L Calder

Mrs L Calder
Head of Year 7 & Teacher of Geography

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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