



# Lithgow High School

*Promoting Excellence In A Caring Educational Environment*

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Lithgow High School is writing to share exciting news that we are partnering with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning.

We understand that mobile phones have great utility, but we have also found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Mobile phone use has become a distraction and source of conflict at school. Lithgow High School believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all its students.

Yondr is used across the world in classrooms and schools, at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone and requires an unlocking base to open. When students arrive at school, they will turn their mobile phone to aeroplane mode or off and place their mobile phone into a personally assigned Yondr pouch. Students will maintain possession of their mobile phones but will not be able to use them until their Yondr pouch is opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their Yondr pouch at all times.

We believe this will allow our students to be:

- Engaged with classroom learning and activities
- Less likely to engage in negative student behaviour
- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in class

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr program at our school. We want to assure our families that you can reach your child through the main office on (02) 6352 1422. Unlocking stations will be available in a number of locations, including the Front Office, Library, and specified staffrooms.

We understand that some students may struggle during the transition period. We would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. The school will upload a digital presentation for parents/carers on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Students will be issued their Yondr pouch on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Yours Sincerely

Karin Mawhood  
**PRINCIPAL Rlg**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

## How Yondr Works



### **POUCH**

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



### **SECURE**

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



### **EXIT**

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What if I want to reach my child during the school day?**

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Contact the main office on 63521422 to reach your child.

### **What if there is an emergency?**

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their schoolbags.

### **What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?**

The Yondr pouch is property of Lithgow High School. If a student damages or tampers with a Yondr pouch, they will be held responsible. The school will provide a replacement Yondr pouch at the cost of \$20 to the student or parent/carer. Any phones not secured at school in a Yondr pouch will be stored safely in the school safe for collection by a parent/carer.

### **How can I clean my student's Yondr pouch?**

In adherence to CDC guidelines, Yondr pouches can be washed in cold water for a short cycle and dried on a short cycle and/or air dried. Pouches can also be cleaned with a disinfectant cleaner.