**Source A: Speech delivered to Ofsted.**

Do you really think phones should be banned in schools? I strongly believes that phones have a vital role to play in the life of young people. If schools have a problem with them, or find they’re being used inappropriately, maybe should come up with rules to make sure this doesn’t happen. However, surely we can all agree a ban is a ridiculous, idiotic and unjust claim that mobile phones have been slowing students down and preventing their learning cannot be proven by anyone.

89% of students agree that phones should be allowed in schools. They recognise the value of this incredibly powerful resource – surely you want what’s best for students? For example, what would happen in an emergency? Imagine a defenceless year 7, lost on their way home from school, and with no way of summoning help. Another valuable use of a mobile phone is to assist students with revision. Literally billions of facts and figures exist on the web. Why would you deny students the opportunity to access this wealth of information?

Educational specialist Max Powers believes that “although phones can cause distraction, I fundamentally disagree with those who think they hold back a student’s education”. If the purpose of a school is to help students learn to be responsible and mature, surely it’s essential that they learn to make choices about when and where to take out their phone. How else will the next generation be able to use their mobiles in the workplace, knowing when it’s appropriate and when it isn’t?

Moreover, we all know school budgets are under threat. Schools find it harder and harder to make ends meet and IT equipment costs most schools hundreds of thousands of pounds each year. If students can’t use their phones, surely schools will have to invest in even more laptops and desktops. This is extremely wasteful, short-sighted and unnecessary.

Finally, I implore you really think about the future of schools. Are we trying to fight new technology, or show students how to use it responsibly? The only way forward is by embracing change, not banning it.