



1 ★★★ 06 Look at the title, headings and photos in the report. What do you think it is about? Read and listen to the report to check your answer.

It is about a school where students ... for a week.

- a weren't allowed to use their phones
- b tried to stop using social media completely
- c tried to spend less time on social media



The school that 'switched off'

A secondary school in Tarporley, northern England, is beginning an unusual experiment. The students have decided to stop using social media for a week.

Day 1 – Time to switch off your phone

It's day one and all 1,000 students at the school have agreed to avoid social media. They've stopped using Twitter and Instagram, as well as Facebook and YouTube. However, they're still allowed to make phone calls and send emails or text messages.

Day 5 – Life without social media isn't easy

It's now day five and the students are counting the days to the end. Everybody has been trying hard, but around one in four people have dropped out. However, some students have seen the advantages of life without Facebook and they've been trying out other things. Fifteen-year-old Georgia says, 'I've been looking at newspapers and magazines, and talking to my parents.'

Day 7 – Most students drop out

It's the last day. The truth is that only 200 students have finished the week without going on social media. Some students have had problems contacting their friends because they don't have their phone numbers. They normally use online chat to make plans.

Conclusions

The experiment has been worth it. Some students have learned that they spend over two hours a day on social media. The school librarian has a very positive view of the event. She says that she's never seen students borrow so many books before.

2 ★★★ Read the report again and write *true* or *false*.

The students have agreed to stop using social media for an experiment. *true*

- 1 All the students are taking part.
- 2 They can't watch YouTube videos.
- 3 Two hundred students dropped out on day seven.

- 4 The experiment has been a negative experience for everybody.

- 5 Most students were successful.
- 6 The experiment was useful.

3 ★★★ Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

Where is the school that is doing the experiment? *It's in Tarporley, northern England.*

- 1 Which types of communication can the students still use during the experiment?

- 2 What other things has Georgia been doing?

- 3 Why have some students had problems making plans with their friends?

- 4 What have some students learned?

- 5 Why did the librarian like the experiment?

4 ★★★ VOCABULARY PLUS Complete the sentences with the words in brackets and add the suffixes *-ful* or *-less*.

Some people go on social media sites *countless* times a day. (*count*)

- 1 Georgia found the experiment (*help*)
- 2 All students were honest and (*truth*)
- 3 A lot of things happened at the school. It was a very week. (*event*)
- 4 One student was desperate without his phone. He found it a situation. (*hope*)
- 5 For some students, the week without social media felt (*end*)