

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank You

As we fast approach the end of the academic year, a big thank you for all your support, it has been another busy but successful year at the academy.

The last day of this academic year will be Friday 18 July, with students finishing at 12.10pm. The normal curriculum and lessons will continue until the final day, so please ensure that your child attends right until the last lesson. There is a clear trend that on the last day of term, attendance drops at the academy, please support us in ensuring that your child attends this day. We will be contacting parents/carers of students who have previously missed the last day of term as a reminder of expectations. **Friday 18 July will also be a non-uniform day for students and staff.**

'You Said, We Did'

Thank you to the feedback on the questionnaire the Trust circulated recently; the response was incredibly positive. Using the free text section of the form, it has enabled us to form some common threads of feedback.

Several parents/carers mentioned issues with the phonelines; that they would "ring repeatedly, and nobody would answer". We have a well-staffed office, which is busy, but we were unsure why this was happening. On investigation, there has been a fault on our line and account with our provider when multiple people contacted the academy at the same time. It would appear calls were not being answered but the calls were never making it through to the office.

We have now applied additional functionality to our telephone system, so that when one-person calls, they go straight through to the main office. If multiple people call at once, they are added to a new queuing system and updates on queue length are given to each caller, for example "you are number three in the queue".

Also, each caller is now given the option to press '0' and leave a voicemail. If we have a queue of 11 or more people, then a high-volume message will be played explaining that 'we are experiencing a high volume of calls, please hold.'

Further feedback was around our Key Stage 3 Tracking Reports; where parents would like a little more information on their achievement in their assessments, for example, including the percentage achieved for each subject. This is something that Miss Parker is exploring for next academic year.

Trips and Visits

This academic year staff at the academy have once again offered a broad range of trips and visits for the students. This year it included trips to Oxford University, Cambridge University, Edgehill University, London school of Dance, Chester Zoo, The National Film Festival, Japan, Iceland, Poland, Paris and

Romania, as well as many more. A number of these trips can only happen by staff giving up their own free time to ensure the students can access these fantastic experiences.

Academic Year 2026/27

The Governing Body recently agreed the academic dates for the 2026/2027 academic year. These dates closely match the advised dates shared by the Local Authority to aid parents/carers with children in multiple schools. The dates can be found via this [LINK](#).

Update on Staffing

Students in Year 10 will already be aware that their Achievement Leader Mr Tootle will be leaving the academy this academic year to undertake a senior finance role within a Liverpool based Multi Academy Trust. As such, Mr Cawley will be staying on as Achievement Leader for Year 11, joining Mrs Bibby and Miss Keenan in the Year 11 Team for next academic year. Mrs Ayrton has been appointed as the new Achievement Leader; now joining the new Year 7 Team. We wish Mr Tootle well in his new role.

Challenges on the SEND department

You may be aware of the national conversation around the significant increases on SEND provisions, diagnosis and funding. At the academy we are also seeing these challenges. Over the past year I have had conversations with parents/carers who have shared their frustrations, whether it be with the system as a whole or the capacity to support. I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you what that demand looks like on the academy.

Proportionately, we have above the Local Authority average for students with a learning need.

We have 64 students with an EHCP currently, with 17 students joining us in Year 7 for the next academic year. We also run our Gold provision; a provision that we are really proud of which provides a fantastic educational route for a small group of students. Mrs Herron, the SENDCO at the academy, has held close to 400 meetings with parents/carers over the 190 days that we have been open this academic year. This led to Mrs Herron completing over 150 different referrals for support, some of which have taken three hours to complete.

One of my former roles was a SENDCO and I am proud of the academy's reputation of support, which leads many agencies to direct families towards the academy. I am also conscious that it will be frustrating for parents/carers to not be able to meet with Mrs Herron in the timeframes requested. We have increased capacity for our SEND team; we have an Assistant SENDCO in Mrs Ward and Mr Purcell has completed the SENDCO qualification is now supporting with referrals and EHCP reviews. Despite this increase we are still incredibly stretched but will continue to work with you as parents/carers to ensure your child has the support they require.

Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that students' education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning:

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, exercise books and equipment. Any bag that cannot hold these items is not a suitable bag
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener
- A green and purple pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on those days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow a kit if they forget their own

To make sure that staff can focus on students' learning and wellbeing, can we please ensure that students return with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further information can be found on the uniform section of the academy website. Please support the academy by making sure your child has the equipment needed to access their learning in lessons and that they meet all the expectations above with regards uniform.

Return Dates for September

To support our new Year 7 students' transition to life at the academy, students will return for next academic year on a slight stagger

- New Year 7 & Year 12 students will return at the normal time of 8.35am on Wednesday 3 September.
- Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13 will return at the normal time of 8.35am on Thursday 4 September.

I hope that everyone enjoys a restful summer holiday period, and we look forward to welcoming students back in September for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully



P Willerton
Principal