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8th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Summer Term Update

I wanted to write and provide you a quick update with a few things that are happening around the academy.

With Year 11 Exam season coming to its closing stages, it has naturally been a busy few months for them. To their credit they have approached these exams in brilliant fashion. They have been really strong role models for the younger students in the academy and we wish them well in these last few days of exams.

Key Dates

Just to highlight a couple of key dates that are fast approaching.

Some of you may have spotted in the last month's newsletter an addition to the June PD (Staff Training) Day that happens at the end of this month. The Trust PD Day which was originally scheduled for Friday 26th June will still take place. This has now been extended to include Thursday 25th June as well. On both these days the academy will be closed to students. I know that in the past that some parents/carers have queried why the June PD Day does not coincide with the Norfolk Show that lots of families and local businesses support. The first and additional day, does now fall on the second of the two show days and as such I hope that this provides those families with an opportunity to attend without impacting attendance at school.

The week beginning the 22nd June is also our Creative Arts event at West Acre Theatre. There are a range of performances taking place each evening and I know that students in the academy are busy rehearsing for these performances.

The following week, week beginning 29th June sees our Year 6 Induction Days taking place on Wednesday and Thursday which will involve a number of our students supporting our new students with their transition to secondary school

Week beginning 6th July, is our physical activity week. This includes our Sports Days at the start of the week as well as the Activity Trips and Curriculum Days at the end of the week. Students should have received confirmation of the activity that they are scheduled to attend during this week and will be having meetings with the staff leading their activities over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, just to confirm that the last day of term is Friday 17th July and the academy will close at 3.10pm for the summer holiday.

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Staffing Changes

This time of year, can often see several changes happen with staffing in the academy. Some of you will be aware that Miss Taylor, the Year 7 Student Support Leader, left us at the end of last month and that Miss James (Maths Teacher) started her maternity leave. We have been working hard to ensure that staffing levels in the academy match the needs of the academy ready for September.

Mobile Phones in the Academy

There has been much written in the media over the last six months about the use of mobile phones and young people. The Government have commissioned a range of reports to look at the impact of phone usage, screen time and use of certain apps by young people on their learning which has led to the latest Government guidance saying that all schools should be mobile-free environments. Whilst our policy has always been that mobile phones should not be used in the academy; this has become increasingly more difficult to reinforce through traditional methods. As such, we have taken the decision to become a mobile-phone free school by introducing the use of phone pouches to prevent use during the academy day. Again, this is something that lots of schools are now doing, including several local secondary schools to reinforce the Government guidance. Where these pouches have been introduced the positive impact on students in those schools is clearly evident and we would hope to see the same positive impact here. We will be writing to you separately over the next few weeks about the implementation of this and how it will work for students in the academy.

Uniform

In support of this please find below a reminder of uniform expectations. These have not changed, and we are keen that students maintain the high standards that they have reached this year. Our uniform expectations remain high, and we have seen an improvement in uniform as a result. We would like to thank parents for their support in maintaining these standards.

As a reminder, our expectations are:

- Students should wear plain black trainers or black leather school shoes. Any other footwear is not allowed and students in incorrect footwear will be asked to change their shoes at school. Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct footwear.
- Blazers are not an optional part of the uniform; they should be worn by students at all times. As the weather becomes warmer, students will be told when they can remove their blazers.
- School ties are an essential part of the uniform. They should be worn by all students. Students losing ties or breaking ties will need to buy replacements. You can buy a tie from the school website through school money.
- Girls may wear black, loose fitted/formal school trousers or a knee length pleated skirt with logo. Leggings are not appropriate and students wearing leggings will be asked to change.
- Socks should be plain black. Students wearing other socks will be asked to change/remove them.

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It is advised that students bring a bag to school to carry their equipment and PE kit. With the introduction of phone pouches later in the term, it will be important for students to have somewhere to store their phone pouch.

We would also ask that students bring a water bottle to school. We have places for students to refill their bottles for free, but we will be removing the plastic cups from the canteen in a bid to become less reliant on single use plastic.

Support from Home

We are fortunate that the vast majority of our interactions with you as parents and carers, are positive, even when we are dealing with some challenging circumstances, and we are grateful of the support you provide. However, I am conscious that when we are dealing with people situations can be emotive as we try to find the best way forward for our students. As such I would like to reinforce the message which is set out in our 'Dealing with Abusive Adults Policy' that can be found on our website. We're committed to a safe, respectful environment. Physical aggression, threats, abusive language or discriminatory conduct towards students, staff, visitors or other parents/carers will lead to restrictions or removal from the site, consistent with DfE guidance and the law. The policy document describes expected adult behaviour and outlines consequences for unacceptable behaviour. Again, we are lucky that most of our interactions with parents/carers and the wider community are positive and we thank you for all your continued support in providing the best education that we can for your children.

Ofsted

As you will be aware a couple of months ago, we were visited by Ofsted. I should receive confirmation of the report being published any day now and we will write to you to let you know when it is available. Whilst I still cannot share the details of the report at this stage, what I can say is that our students were a tremendous credit to themselves through the inspection. All the inspectors commented on the really positive interactions that they had with all the students they spoke to, and our students should be rightly proud of the impression they created for our visitors on those two days.

I will write again before the end of term with further updates for September and the new academic year.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Kind regards



Mr Woodhouse
Principal