

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Start of Term Update

We have enjoyed an exceptionally positive start to the new academic year and have been delighted by the way students have returned following the summer break. Our new Year 7 cohort has settled quickly into academy life, and students across all year groups have made a focused and purposeful start to their learning. Their attitude, presentation and commitment have given us every reason to be optimistic about the year ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on several important developments across the academy.

Staffing Updates

As the academy continues to grow, we are investing further in our staff team to ensure students receive the highest possible levels of support and expertise. We are pleased to welcome:-

- Mr Mills, Assistant Head of Science, alongside Mrs Scotney and Mr Leinster in Science.
- Mr Roffe to the Mathematics team.
- Miss Dillnutt as our new Design Technology teacher.
- Mrs Codman and Mr Winnicki as Student Support Leaders for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 respectively.
- Miss Taylor as Attendance and Admissions Officer.
- Mrs Anigbo and Mrs Massey as Teaching Assistants.

While some colleagues join us to replace departing staff, others are part of our continued expansion, reflecting our commitment to providing excellent educational and pastoral support for every student.

Contacting the Academy

For day-to-day enquiries, please contact the academy reception. Where appropriate, we encourage parents to contact their child's tutor first, as tutors can often provide immediate support or direct enquiries to the appropriate member of staff. To strengthen support for students and families, the Academy Assistant Principal leadership responsibilities have been aligned as follows:

- Mrs Atkins - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)
- Ms Ogden - Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)
- Mrs Abrahams - Safeguarding and Attendance
- Mrs Smith - SEND and Inclusion

Cont...

Cont...

-2-

These leaders work closely with their teams and are well placed to support parents with any questions relating to their areas of responsibility. Miss Thomason continues in her role as Vice Principal, working alongside me to lead all aspects of academy life.

Mobile Phone Pouches (from Mrs Atkins, Assistant Principal)

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive support shown by both students and parents following the introduction of our mobile phone pouch system. The implementation has been extremely successful, and students have adapted impressively well to the new routine. The early impact has been significant, helping to create a calmer environment, reducing distractions and enabling students to focus more fully on their learning, social interactions and wider academy life.

A key reminder is that all students must bring their pouch to school every day, whether they are carrying a mobile phone or not. Where a phone is not being brought into school, students should carry a signed and dated note from a parent or carer within the pouch confirming this. If a student arrives without their pouch, they will be issued with a loan pouch for the day and will be expected to return it at the end of the school day. As with any other essential piece of equipment, borrowing a pouch will be recorded on Bromcom as a 'Lack of Equipment'.

The introduction of mobile phone pouches is already helping to create a calmer and more focused learning environment, allowing students to fully engage with lessons, social interactions and school life without the distraction of mobile devices. Thank you for your continued support as we establish this important improvement to students' learning experiences.

SEND Updates (from Mrs Smith, Assistant Principal)

SEND Packs: All students on the SEND register have now received their SEND packs containing resources that support them in lessons. Students are expected to have these available and ready to use throughout the school day. Our first cycle of 'Assess, Plan, Do and Review' has also begun. Parents will receive contact from a member of staff responsible for reviewing their child's support plan, providing an opportunity to discuss progress, targets and any areas of concern.

We firmly believe that SEND provision is the responsibility of all staff, and we remain committed to ensuring students receive consistent support across the academy.

Fidget Resources: Following updated examination guidance, we have reviewed the use of fidget resources within school. Where appropriate, students have been provided with Blu Tack, which aligns with examination access arrangement guidance and can also be used during GCSE examinations. To ensure consistency and minimise classroom distractions, no other fidget toys should be brought into the academy. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation.

Year 7 Transition: Our new Year 7 students have made an excellent start and should be extremely proud of how they have settled into academy life. We recognise that the move to secondary school can be challenging for some young people, and we remain committed to providing the support they need during this important transition.

Cont...

Cont...

-3-

NDS Assessments: We have seen a significant increase in requests from the NHS to complete NDS questionnaires. This appears to be linked to additional staffing being introduced to reduce assessment backlogs, which is encouraging news for families who have been waiting for support. We are working closely with the NDS team to ensure questionnaires are completed accurately and within reasonable timescales. Where appropriate, we have requested additional flexibility regarding deadlines and the use of school observations to support assessments.

Please be assured that we will continue to work constructively with families and external agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for students.

Looking Ahead

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to the academy. Following last summer's excellent Year 11 results, we have challenged our students to make this year even more successful.

The determination, maturity and ambition students have shown during these first few days suggest that they are more than capable of meeting that challenge. With the continued support of parents and carers, I am confident we can make this another outstanding year for our academy community.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Kind regards.



Mr. M Woodhouse
Principal