

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing the day after our wonderful annual Awards Evening. It was really special to celebrate the achievement of students in 2024/25 and to see many of you. Thank you as ever for all you do to support your child flourish at the Academy. It was also lovely to see a number of Year 8 families at the Induction evening on Tuesday night.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share that as a result of both you and your child's survey feedback last year, we have made some changes. I know myself that sometimes it feels like we fill in questionnaires and surveys and then nothing changes! So we have introduced a new Behaviour curriculum and have started sharing this with all students from the off. We intend to be very explicit about the behaviour we expect from students and crucially how they can meet our high and consistent expectations. Do please ask your child about this as they will all have had at least one Coaching Time session with this focus.

Next week we will continue running tours for prospective parents and students and we also look forward to meeting Year 7 parents and carers at our Information evening on Thursday 18th September, 5.30 - 6.30pm. Please note this event is for parents and carers only.

Change to the cost of school meals

I appreciate that rising prices have affected us all - and as we know, food costs have risen significantly. Unfortunately owing to the increase in Living Wage and National Insurance costs, our catering provider, Cucina, has raised their standard meal cost to £2.90 per day. This allows for students to purchase a main meal and a dessert and is in line with the prices charged in other local schools. This is the [menu](#) for the Autumn term.

School Photos

On Monday 15th September, Year 7, 9 and 12 and students who joined us as in-year admissions, will be having their school photographs taken. If you have a child in one of these years, you will have received an email from Ms Morson asking for consent to share your email address with Tempest Photography - this is to give you the chance to buy the images. Please complete the consent form in the email if you think you might want to do this. Don't forget, if your child has PE on Monday, they can bring a shirt and tie to put on over their PE shirt for the photo.

Year 7 CATS & Year 11 Maths, Science and English Assessments

Next week Year 7 will be undertaking their CATS on Thursday and Friday. This is an opportunity for us to identify each student's strengths as well as areas where they might need more support in lessons.

Year 11 will be undertaking Maths, English and Science assessments on some of the GCSE content that they have been revising over the summer. These assessments give teachers an early idea of the grade that students are working at, as well as giving students the opportunity to become more familiar with working in the exam hall environment, which some can find daunting.

School Street

A reminder that parents and carers are not permitted to pick up or drop off on Burnaby Street between 8.05-8.45am and 3.25-3.50pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and between 2.25-2.45pm on Wednesdays. Burnaby Street is a designated School Street which is designed to keep students safe. Please do not contravene this traffic restriction. If in doubt, please check the large and prominent street signs as you turn into Burnaby Street from Lots and Uperne Roads.

Some important dates to note

As there is always a lot of information to absorb at the start of the year, I would like to draw your attention to two important dates coming up. On Thursday 25th September, the Academy will close at **2.35pm** for all students, to allow us to set up for our Year 6 Open Evening. Many students will be invited to return later in the evening to support the event. Thank you in advance for allowing your children to help us showcase the Academy. The following day, Friday 26th September is an INSET day for staff and the Academy is closed to all students.

As you may know our Chaplain left for a role nearer to home. We hope to recruit for this position in January. In the absence of the Chaplain's message I wanted to share the prayer I led all the students in, at the end of Collective Worship last week:

Father,

*Be near me,
Be a warm presence around me,
And a light inside me.*

*Help me as I start this new Academy year to know you are in charge, you know what darkness is,
But you are brighter than the darkness
And warm enough to take away the shivers of my fears and worries.*

Be with me as I adjust to the new and I ask that you guide me in all I do, say and think.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

I am confident that by working together, we will all 'adjust to the new' this autumn.

Enjoy the weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Upcoming useful dates:

Monday 15th September -	School photos (Year 7, 9, 12 and In Year Admissions only)
Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September -	Year 7 CATS tests and Year 11 Maths and Science Mocks
Thursday 18th September -	Year 7 Parents Information Evening (5.30pm arrival)
Thursday 25th September -	Earlier finish at 2.35 pm to allow for Open Evening preparation
Friday 26th September -	INSET (Academy closed to all students)
Tuesday 30th September -	Year 10 information Evening (GCSE launch and Work Experience)
Wednesday 8th October -	Learning Coach Consultation Day (LCCD) - evening appointments (from 3pm)
Thursday 9th October -	LCCD - Academy closed to students, apart from booked appointments