

Tuesday 25th August 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family have had a lovely summer break although I know only too well that six weeks with teens at home can feel rather long and very expensive. The return of the school routine is good for us all and this week is the perfect time to start preparing for the earlier mornings and reduced screen time! And hopefully the intense heatwaves we have endured over the past few months have passed for now.

The Academy has been a hive of activity over the summer break with a number of remodelling projects to maximise the space for students and staff. We are also welcoming Culinera as the Academy's new caterers and they have been rebranding Food for Thought. We are genuinely excited about Culinera's food offer and their commitment to serving good value, nutritious and varied food at breaks and lunchtimes.

Summer exams results

A fortnight ago our Year 13 students received their A-level results. There were some brilliant outcomes and we held our average grade of a B- from 2025 which is excellent. Last week saw equal joy and celebration, captured by RBKC socials, as the Class of 2026 received their GCSE results. Again another stunning success story with an increase on last year's results and a full to bursting Year 12 enrolled for September 2026 with students from across London wanting to join our prestigious Sixth Form.

Start of term

As we have previously communicated we thought carefully about our start date this September - which allows families to return from any trips abroad a bit later and benefit from slightly cheaper air fares. Your child must attend from the first day of term so please make sure this is the case. Tuesday 1st September to Thursday 3rd September are INSET days; no students should attend the Academy on these days.

We will welcome our new **Year 7** on **Friday 4th September** between 9.00am and 9.10am, via the student entrance, and they will be with us until 2.00pm.

We also welcome our new **Year 12** on **Friday 4th September** between 9.30 am and 9.45 am, via the main Reception entrance, and they will be with us until 1.00 pm.

All other students return on **Monday 7th September** by 8.35 am for their first full day. All students must wear full, correct Academy [uniform](#). In particular school shoes must comply with the Uniform policy and be leather/ leather look. Please do not get lured by the shops that sell 'school shoes' but they are actually trainers. The only exception to normal Academy uniform is some classes in Year 9 and 11 who have PE lessons on Monday - please check your child's timetable on Edulink to see if this applies.

School Uniform Direct, our supplier, is located near Fulham Broadway, located at **84c Lillie Road, Fulham, SW6 1TL**. If you still have a few outstanding items of uniform to purchase, please ensure you visit there to purchase any outstanding items.

Mobile Phones

In line with new statutory DfE guidance that comes into force on 1 September, the Academy *is a mobile phone-free environment by default*. This means that mobile phones are not permitted to be used. For students in the Sixth Form there are exceptions whereby mobile phones are permitted in a restricted area, for restricted use. From next month the Academy will have a 'gate-to-gate' policy in operation. This formalises what was already in place and means that

students in Years 7-11 are **not permitted to use their mobile phone** anywhere in the Academy at any time. Mobile phones **must** be switched off prior to entering through the Student Entrance gates and can only be used once students have left the gates at the end of the day. As currently any student not following the rules will be sanctioned in line with the Academy's Behaviour policy.

Changes to Free School Meals

We recently wrote to parents and carers informing that the Government is expanding free school meal eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings. Students may qualify if their family receives any of the following support:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Qualifying criteria under guidance for families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Please complete the [form](#) by Tuesday 1st September for us to confirm your child's eligibility for free school meals.

New Behaviour Framework

We will be writing to you shortly to outline the new Framework. This has been developed to ensure all students' behaviours support them to learn and to manage their time throughout the Academy day successfully and in a more positive way. There are not huge changes but a renewed emphasis on our young people taking responsibility and accountability for their actions.

We have missed your child(ren) and the Academy will not feel properly open until we welcome them back at the start of next month. I hope you can enjoy a pleasant Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Upcoming useful dates:

Tuesday 1st September - Thursday 3rd September - INSET days (no students to attend)

Friday 4th September - Y7 and Y12 only to attend

Monday 7th September - All students return to the Academy

Thursday 10th September - Awards Evening (by invite only)

Thursday 24th September - Open Evening from 5pm (early student dismissal at 2.35pm)

Friday 25th September - INSET day (no students to attend)

Thursday 8th October and Friday 9th October - Learning Coach Consultation Day (LCCD)