

19 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As the autumn term draws to a close, I am writing to share some important information ahead of the spring term.

### Staffing

We are saying farewell to Mrs Linda Allen who, after more than 15 years of dedicated service, is retiring from the Academy. We thank Mrs Allen for her commitment and wish her a very happy retirement.

Mrs Beckey Baker, Teacher of English, has also made the decision to leave the Academy at the end of this term. We would like to thank Mrs Baker for her hard work and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

There have also been significant changes within our pastoral team.

Mrs Lauren Johnson and Mr Harry Wells have stepped down from their roles as Heads of Year. We are grateful for the support and guidance they have provided to the students in their care.

In addition, Miss Laura Parker, Deputy Head of Year 7, will be commencing her maternity leave.

From January, the pastoral structure will be as follows:

#### Year 7

- Mr B Fenwick-Rogers – Head of Year
- Miss J Slater – Acting Deputy Head of Year

#### Year 8

- Mrs A Pieniak – Head of Year
- Mr T Smith – Acting Deputy Head of Year

#### Year 9

- Mrs K Laws – Acting Head of Year
- Mr J Divilly – Deputy Head of Year

#### Year 10

- Miss C Jones – Acting Head of Year
- Miss K Joines – Acting Deputy Head of Year

#### Year 11

- Mrs J Matson – Head of Year
- Miss K Parker - Deputy Head of Year



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## Awards

I am delighted to share that we have achieved several awards this term. We have been presented with the Leading Parent Partnership Award, the Best Practice with Teaching Assistants Award and the Inclusive Attendance Bronze Award. These achievements are a testament to the excellent work taking place across our Academy and our continued drive for improvement to ensure every student is placed on the path to a happy, successful and fulfilling life. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support.

## Passes

We have noticed an increase in students accessing the SEND Hub more frequently than necessary and, as a result, missing vital learning time. From January, it will be the professional judgement of the teacher, rather than the student, that determines whether a reset in the SEND Hub is required. High-quality teaching is the most effective lever for improving student attainment and therefore it is essential that students remain in the classroom, engaged in learning.

## Uniform and Personal Presentation

Students are expected to wear full and correct uniform, including a blazer and appropriate school shoes. Please ensure your child returns to school in January meeting these expectations. As the weather becomes colder, students should wear a suitable coat. Hoodies and sports jackets are not permitted.

Over the festive period, some students may wish to experiment with their personal appearance. However, please ensure that your child adheres to our expectations on their return. Students may wear one small stud in each ear and a simple watch. No other jewellery is permitted. Unnatural hair colours, false eyelashes, acrylic nails, additional piercings and any markings in eyebrows are not allowed.

## Mobile Phones

To avoid distractions, mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' bags throughout the school day. We operate a "never used, seen or heard" policy.

If a student breaches this rule, their phone will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent or carer.

## Contact Details

If your contact details have changed, please inform the Academy. It is essential that we have up-to-date information in case of an emergency or if an after-school club needs to be cancelled.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a Merry Christmas. Thank you for your support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on 5 January 2026.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Gissendorf  
Principal



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