

Friday, 24th April

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy few weeks at the Academy as we gear up for the GCSE exams, our brilliant musical and lots of trips and visits over the next few weeks. That hasn't distracted from the main event, though – working hard and being nice. It has been a really good start back since we returned from the Easter holidays. Our students – your children - have done us proud.

Attendance

We have started term well, and attendance continues to improve from last year to this year. Thank you for all your support – making sure your child regularly attends school is one of the most important things you can do as a parent.

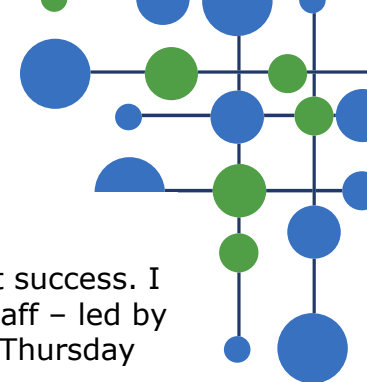
Year group	Up to Easter 2025	Up to Easter 2026
7	94.1	95.6
8	92.3	94.1
9	89.6	93.1
10	90.4	90.5
11	90.7	93.5
Overall	91.4	93.5

Easter School and Saturday School – year 11

I want to massively praise our year 11 students, who are working tremendously hard ahead of their final exams which start in the coming weeks. Over the period of Easter School, we had around 65% of students in for English, Maths and Science sessions – over a hundred students – and over 50 were here last Saturday for sessions led by teachers. I am really impressed with their dedication, application, hard work and care.

Transition evening – year 6

A huge thank you to all families who came to our first transition event of the year last Wednesday. It was great to have the chance to speak to a Hall of over 200 parents and carers. Further information will be sent out in the coming weeks about visits, data collection and extra time in the Academy for those students who need a little extra help.



Matilda Jr: The Musical

I am writing this before watching this, which I am sure will be a great success. I have seen the hard work that has gone into this from students and staff – led by Miss Wrighton and Mrs Waldron – and it'll be a lovely way to spend a Thursday night!

May Day Bank Holiday

We will be closed on Monday, 4th May and will reopen on Tuesday morning at 8am.

Personal Development Curriculum – parental information

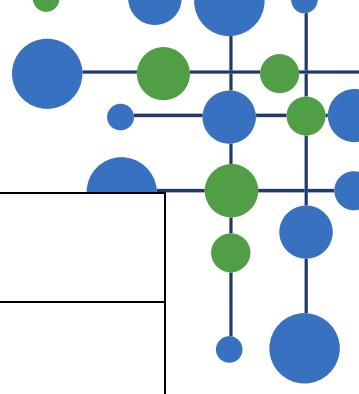
We are hosting a parental information session on Wednesday 10th June between 4 and 5pm for those parents/carers who are interested in finding out more about the Personal Development curriculum. If you would like to come along and meet staff, please complete this form to register your attendance.

<https://forms.office.com/e/XEQ07rrxh3>

Uniform

The following table is a reminder of our uniform expectations. We maintain expectations and standards until the end of term, including for year 11 in their GCSE exams. If you are struggling with uniform items, please contact your child's Student Manager – we are always keen to help families to make sure your children have the right uniform.

Uniform item	Notes
Academy tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Available on Arbor, at TCA or from Rawcliffes, Dewsbury for £5
Academy blazer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Available from Rawcliffes, DewsburyMust be worn on corridors at all times
Black trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Full length trousers must be wornNot leggings, jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms, jeans, cycling short or jersey materialNot skin-tight fitTrousers must be tailored and not shiny or stretchy
Black skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be knee lengthNot stretchy/jersey materialMust be worn with black tights
Black socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be worn if wearing trousers
Black shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not trainers or pumpsConverse, Vans or anything made by a sportswear brand are not allowed
Salwar kameez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If the neck is visible, a shirt and tie must be wornMust be black or dark blue with no patterns
School bag	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Essential item – not negotiableMust be big enough to carry PE kit, books and equipment



Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One ring• One small bracelet• One necklace (worn under the shirt)
Make up and piercings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One small stud or sleeper in each ear• One small nose stud (not in the septum)• No tongue piercings• Discreet make up• No false nails or false eyelashes

Mobile phone expectations

Spot checks continue on students' mobile phones, in line with our changes made after Christmas. We are seeing very few devices being confiscated – they should be off and in bags – which is great. You might have seen in the news that the government plan to make it law that mobile phones will be banned in schools for children. We wait for the details of this, but as a reminder, our current expectations about phones are below:

Confiscation time	Consequences	Next steps
First	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 minute detention• Confiscation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone returned to student after detention
Second	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 minute detention• Confiscation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone returned to parent/carer after detention
Third	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 minute detention• Confiscation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone returned to parent/carer at the end of the week• Mobile phone contract in place

The weather looks like it will be kind this weekend, so I hope you get the chance to enjoy it. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Burton
Headteacher