

Our Ref: PDA/ACO

9th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Academic Year 2025/2026

Further to my letter dated 28th March, I'd like to thank those of you who responded to the feedback link, we had an overwhelmingly positive response with parents/carers supporting that the time would be better spent planning and preparing a higher quality education. We can now confirm that the attached term dates and INSET days for the academic year 2025-26 are final.

The new academic year will commence on Tuesday 2nd September. Specific arrangements for Tuesday 2nd September will follow in due course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you the finalised timings to the academic day. This will commence September 2025, please note the slight amendments to the start/end of the day:

Time	Period
8:15am	Gates open
8:25am	Line up
8:30am	Tutor time
8:50am	Period 1
9:50am	Period 2
10:50am	Break time
11:05am	Period 3
12:05pm	Lunch time
12:55pm	Period 4
1:55pm	Period 5
2:55pm	End of day
2:55pm	Period 6 (Y11)

By way of reminder, please see below the rationale for placing two additional INSETs into next year's calendar. It is important to note that academies and free schools aren't subject to the [regulations](#) that govern the traditional school day and year unlike maintained schools.

Our Rationale

- Education Endowment Foundation [Feedback | EEF](#) Research shows that detailed and personalised feedback has a significant impact on students' progress. We have explored the best way to implement this and are following the lead of the highest achieving schools by dedicating specific INSET days for personalised feedback. Following our calendared formal assessment windows such as mock exams, we aim to provide an additional 10 hours per year (two INSET days) for teachers to assess GCSE/A-Level units, enabling high quality feedback and the development of intervention resource packs that will better support our students and their progress towards achieving their target grades.

- We believe that a key factor in the success and improvement of our students is robust assessment and student led individualised feedback. Following our calendared formal assessment windows such as mock exams, we aim to provide an additional 10 hours per year (two INSET days) for teachers to assess GCSE/ A-Level units, enabling high quality feedback and the development of intervention resource packs that will better support our students and their progress towards achieving their target grades.
- Our INSET days will be aligned and shared across all of our three secondary schools. It will enable subject staff to work together to share the workload of planning rather than in isolation from each other. By working in collaboration, subject staff can significantly improve the quality of learning for our young people as well as reducing the replication of effort, reducing their workload and improving their wellbeing. We would hope that this leads to better teacher retention and the best learning experience for your child with fewer days lost to ill health and absence.
- It is expected that there will be an even greater demand on schools to review how they are meeting the needs of children with special educational needs. We anticipate that due to the ever complex and changing needs of our children that crucial CPD will need to take place to better equip our staff to meet the needs of these children.
- The traditional five INSET days are part of the national teachers' pay and conditions policy and are included within the 'working time' section of the statutory School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). It requires that full time teachers are to be employed and directed for no more than 1,265 hours across 195 days per year. This means we can only direct school staff within term time and with a limited amount of time to undertake necessary planning, assessment and preparation to ensure we fully meet the needs of our students. There are clear stipulations of what can be used in directed time, mainly: teaching time, planning, preparation, assessment, registration, mid-session breaks, trapped time, staff meetings, parents' evenings and INSET days.

Whilst we understand the challenges and impact that INSET days and school closures have upon our families, we hope that you recognise our motivation is to deliver the highest quality education to our students.

We hope that by providing these dates well in advance of the forthcoming academic year, it will give parents and families the opportunity to plan accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely



Mr P Davis

Executive Director of Secondary Education

Enc