

July 2018



Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

I am very pleased with the progress made by the Academy this academic year.

We started the year in special measures and, in March, were judged to be good across all categories. This is a remarkable achievement given the speed of improvement we have achieved. I recently received a letter of congratulations from Amanda Spielman, Head of Ofsted, in which she recognises the hard work of staff and students alike. We can look forward to next year with a great deal of optimism as we push to become an outstanding school.

I would like to thank the staff at the school for their incredible hard work and dedication. The students also deserve recognition for how they supported all the changes and showed a fantastic commitment to their learning. Thank you also to parents and carers for your continued support. It really has been a team effort.

Below, I have included information about the start of the new academic year. Last year we raised the bar of expectations and I want to maintain those standards in terms of uniform, equipment, behaviour, etc.

Lockers

Parents will be aware that we had plans to provide lockers this year. Unfortunately, our original plans fell through but we are expecting lockers to be available in September. Anyone who already paid their deposit will have a locker allocated and any students wishing to have one will be able to pick up a letter in September. Apologies for the inconvenience and the delay in getting this resource in place.

Key Dates

3 rd and 4 th September 2018	Staff return to school (<i>3rd and 4th September are CPD days</i>)
Wednesday 5 th September 2018	Students return to school – Yr7 at 8.30 a.m. – Other years at 10.30 a.m.
Friday 28 th October 2018*	School closure for staff training
Saturday 29 th September 2018*	Open Day for prospective parents
22 nd to 26 th October 2018	Half-term
Friday 30 th November 2018	School closure – staff CPD day
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	Last day of autumn term
Monday 7 th January 2019	Staff CPD day
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Students return from Christmas holidays – 8.30 a.m. start for all years

18 th to 22 nd February 2019	Half-term
Friday 22 nd March 2019	Staff CPD day
Friday 12 th April 2019	Last day of spring term
Monday 29 th April 2019	Staff and students return from Easter holidays – 8.30 a.m. start for all years
Monday 6 th May 2019	Bank holiday
27 th to 31 st May 2019	Half-term
Friday 19 th July 2019	Last day of the summer term

(* please note, these dates are a week earlier than previously published)

Equipment

All students should arrive with their journal, black pen, purple pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil case and Casio FX-83 scientific calculator (available to purchase from the Maths Department).

Please make sure your child has the necessary equipment for the start of the year.

Students can bring drinks to school (no energy drinks are permitted), but only water can be drunk in lessons.

Uniform

Please see below for details of our expectations around uniform. Please note that the standard skirt needs to be worn by girls, which needs to be knee length, and trainers are not permitted under any circumstances (unless we have a medical note from a doctor). If students arrive in the incorrect attire, we will provide an appropriate skirt/shoes.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the Academy use. If you wish to withdraw your child from Sex and Relationship Education, please contact Miss Freer (freerm@bowerpark.co.uk).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing summer holiday.

Yours faithfully



S W McLaughlin
Principal