



3 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another busy academic year, I hope that this letter is useful for you and your child to prepare for September 2024 to enable them to 'Learn without Limits'. As ever, I continue to be extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students and I look forward to another successful year as they enter the next stage of their educational journey. While a little long, this letter contains important information for next year.

Learning Journeys

At any point in the year, you can identify your child's current and upcoming curriculum by visiting our website. [This link](#) details the term's specific topics, in addition to formal assessments and the Academy's reporting calendar on when you will receive updates on your child's progress. I would like to encourage you to engage with this information to facilitate discussions at home with your child regarding their current interests, strengths and areas for development. In September you will be able to see what students are learning each term.

Rewards and celebration

The launch of the Academy's new rewards system, known as 'Empowered' has been a real success this year. The Senior Leadership Team and I have enjoyed attending the termly celebration assemblies to award students with prizes for achieving the different thresholds of points, in addition to individuals who have achieved extra-curricular achievements both inside and outside of school. It has been a real highlight to have recently awarded 38 students the Principal's award and 127 Vice Principals' awards and we hope there will be many more to come. We are eagerly planning our first whole-school celebration assembly on the final day of term where we will celebrate a range of successes, including showcasing talent from our Performing Arts department. This assembly will also announce the winners of the two iPad Minis, with every positive point equating to an entry into the prize draw, as well as the final Weekly Wheel for students achieving 100% attendance, 0 negative points or ≥ 5 positive incidents in the previous week with winners earning themselves a £10 Amazon voucher. As a reminder, you can track your child's behaviour record (positive and negative) via Go4Schools.



Timings of the school day

From September, we will be operating separate break and lunch times for Key Stage 3 and Key Stages 4 and 5. The school site is busy with 1,328 students on roll and by operating staggered social times, students will be able to enjoy and access facilities with less peers around them. The updated school timings are shown below.

Guilsborough Multi Academy Trust

An exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No 07535683

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Year 7, 8 & 9		Year 10, 11, 12 & 13	
Reg	8.45 -9.10	Reg	8.45 -9.10
P1	9.10 - 10.10	P1	9.10 - 10.10
Break	10.10 - 10.30	P2	10.10 - 11.10
P2	10.30 - 11.30	Break	11.10 - 11.30
P3	11.30 - 12.30	P3	11.30 - 12.30
Lunch	12.30 - 13.15	P4	12.30 - 13.30
P4	13.15 - 14.15	Lunch	13.30 - 14.15
P5	14.15 - 15.15	P5	14.15 - 15.15

Uniform

Like most work places, the Academy implements its own uniform policy and by accepting a place at Guilsborough Academy, parents and carers are committing their child to wear the agreed uniform. It is pleasing that the vast majority of our students take real pride in their appearance by upholding the Academy's policies.

Following parent voice and difficulties in sourcing the Academy's uniform items, we have taken action to change our suppliers. Our branded uniform items can now be purchased from the following outlets:

- Tailor Made – 6 Prospect Way, Royal Oak Industrial Estate, Daventry, NN11 8PL.
www.tailormadeschoolwear.co.uk – 01327 311125
Opening hours – Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturdays (during summer holidays) 9am-12pm. Due to demand, they also offer out of hours fittings by appointment.
- Trutex Direct – online only – www.trutexdirect.com – 01200 421206

Non-branded uniform items can be purchased from the above providers or from any high street store or supermarket.

Detailed information on the Academy's uniform is accessible [here](#) and as a brief reminder, all students are expected to wear the following items each day:

- Academy blazer
- Academy tie
- White shirt
- Tailored trousers or a pleated knee length skirt

Additionally, students may wear a plain V-neck jumper as well as, not instead of, the Academy blazer.

School shoes must be black, low-heeled and leather/leather alternative. They must not have wording, logos or imprints stitched or detailed on the side or tongue of the shoe. The images on the right depict acceptable school shoes.



The following examples are **not** acceptable forms of footwear:

- Trainers and branded sportswear, such as Nike, Adidas, Puma or Converse. Nike Air Force are considered trainers and branded as sportswear and are therefore not permitted.
- Boots
- Plimsolls, canvas shoes, sliders, sandals or flipflops

To continue to adhere to the Department for Education's 2021 statutory guidance for the cost of school uniforms, we have reduced the number of branded items within the Academy PE kit to just two:

- AKOA Vortex crew neck
- Vortex reversible long-sleeve top or long-sleeve quarter zip sweatshirt

These items are purchasable via the suppliers detailed above and we request that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name so that they can be returned if lost.

In addition to clothing, the Academy's uniform policy also states that the only jewellery and piercings allowed is one pair of sleepers or studs in each ear. No face piercings are permitted or those that are seemingly 'hidden' such as tongue and belly button piercings due to health and safety implications. Additionally, hair must be one colour and whilst it is impossible to identify all types of unacceptable hairstyle, we do not permit two tone, bright colours and shaved designs.

Equipment

To maximise every learning opportunity, we expect our students to attend lessons with the following equipment:

- Black pens
- Pencil
- Ruler (preferably 30cm)
- Calculator (preferably a Scientific Calculator – Casio fx-83GTX)
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Reading book for Years 7-9

In addition to the above, we also advise that students possess a Maths set and highlighters. To promote organisation, we would like all students to store their equipment in a pencil case.

Mobile phones

Following the February release of the Department for Education's guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools and collated voice from students and their parents/carers, the Academy's mobile phone policy has been updated ready for September. Our policy has always been that electronic devices 'must not be used, seen or heard on the school premises at any time' and should this be breached, the following staged sanctions will occur:

- First offence – the device is returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- Second offence – the device is confiscated and kept securely on site until a parent/carer can collect it.
- Third offence – the device is handed to Student Reception upon the student's arrival every morning for a period of time.

Whilst many schools have taken the decision to prohibit students from bringing their phones to school, we believe that our students are responsible enough to understand and uphold the Academy policy. We will utilise 'The Guilsborough Way' registration programme to teach and remind students of amendments ready for next academic year and we hope that the majority of students would never even entail the first offence.

School events

After its successful launch last year, we are holding Parent Information evenings again for Years 7-11 in September. The evenings will communicate our vision and expectations for the year ahead with detail on 'The Guilsborough Way', Go4Schools and the curriculum.

Information evenings:

- Year 7 – 10th September 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Year 8 – 11th September 6.30pm-7.30pm

- Year 9 – 17th September 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Year 10 – 18th September 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Year 11 – 12th September 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Year 11 (Examinations preparation) - 21st January 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Further to these evenings, parents/carers of Year 7, 12 and 13 students will have the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor. This is an excellent opportunity for parents/carers to learn how their child has settled into their new educational stage. The dates for these events which will be held in school are as follows:

- Year 7 – 23rd September 5.00pm-7.00pm
- Year 12 and 13 – 26th September 5.00pm-7.00pm

Parents' evenings:

Parents evenings will continue to be run as normal throughout the year. During these evenings you will be able to talk to your child's subject teachers regarding their progress and how you can support their achievements. Due to the importance of Year 11, the Academy offers a second parents' evening during the year. Appointments for all evenings will be made via the Parents Evening booking system.

- Year 11 – 19th September 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 9 – 14th November 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 11 – 9th January 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 13 – 23rd January 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 12 – 27th February 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 10 – 1st May 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 8 – 15th May 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 7 (A half) – 12th June 4.30pm-7.00pm
- Year 7 (B half) – 19th June 4.30pm-7.00pm

Additionally, we will continue to run our SEND parents' evenings for students on our SEND register (K or E) and more information regarding these evenings will be shared early next academic year.

We run a number of year group specific events throughout the academic year such as transition evenings (Year 6 and Sixth Form) and options evenings (Year 9) and further detail will be shared with you in due course.

I'm sure you will agree that there is lots to look forward to next academic year, including a school production Matilda the Musical between the 3-5th December 2024 which is set to be a huge success.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we continue to support your children in fulfilling their potential.

Yours sincerely



Mr S. Frazer
Principal



Mr C. Hancock
Vice Principal



Miss G. Keenes
Vice Principal