

March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As this Spring term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight upcoming dates and important information regarding academy expectations.

### Term dates

The academy closes for the Easter break on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 12.00pm**. The first day back for all students is **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 8.40am**.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Students should be in school every day, on time. The academy gates open at 8.15am and we expect all students to be on site by 8.30am so that they are ready to start their school working day at 8.40am. If your child is absent due to illness, please contact the academy to inform us. Students who arrive late to the academy will receive a same day 20-minute detention, managed by their form tutor.

### Uniform

We have a strict, but simple uniform policy at the academy. We do not permit trainers, short skirts or tight trousers to be worn. We are a formal place of work; therefore, the expectation is that students have:

- Black skirts of an appropriate length, with black tights
- Black trousers (appropriate style)
- Blazers with the academy badge
- Academy ties for all students (Years 7-11)
- Polishable black shoes
- Students should not wear coats or hoodies in the building
- The only jewellery permitted is one pair of stud earrings and one nose stud.

When students have PE on their timetable, they need to ensure they bring the correct PE kit. This consists of:

- Blue Sheffield PE t-shirt
- Plain black leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Sheffield tracksuit top or Sheffield PE hoody



### E – Scooters

West Midlands Police guidance confirms that **privately owned e-scooters are illegal to use on public roads, pavements, parks, cycle lanes, and any other public spaces**. They are legally classified as *motor vehicles* under the Road Traffic Act 1988, meaning they require a driving licence and insurance—neither of which is available for privately owned e-scooters. As a result, **children riding private e-scooters in public are doing so unlawfully**, and the vehicles can be seized under Section 165 of the Act.

The only lawful use of e-scooters in public places is through **approved rental trial schemes**, which require riders to be at least 18 and hold a valid driving licence—making them **inappropriate and inaccessible for school-aged children**.

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW **Principal:** Michael Riley

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### Social Media

The academy has recently launched new social media pages across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. Regular posts will share events happening throughout the week, reminders of extra-curricular activities, academic focus, achievements and rewards. Links to the academy's social media pages can be found below:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

The academy also has a half termly newspaper, the 'Sheffield Standard'. This will be a round up of the events of the last half term and provide parents/carers with key information and important dates.

### Safeguarding updates

Regular information to support parents/carers in relation to online safety, and other pertinent safeguarding topics, are sent via Arbor. Our website also signposts a wealth of support for the well-being of your child:

<https://scacademy.co.uk/for-students/mental-health>

Should you require any additional support please contact the academy safeguarding team.

### Mobile Phones

The Government has been clear that it expects all schools to be 'mobile phone-free environments.' Ministers usually mention this in the broader context of the new Online Safety Act. Mobile phones are a distraction from learning and can facilitate bullying. 'Smartphones' can allow young people unfiltered and unmonitored access to the internet on school site.

Like at most schools, mobile phones are currently prohibited at The Academy. Students are trusted to keep them turned off and out of sight. Most do this. However, mobile phones still have a negative impact in school. The Department for Education's new guidance expects that pupils 'do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day.' The guidance contains case studies of good practice, none of which reflect the current system here at the academy. In light of this, it is not an option to stay as we are.


Therefore, we will be introducing a system where students place their phones in a 'pouch' upon arriving to school site. The pouch locks and students can unlock their pouch and gain access to their phone when they leave in the afternoon. It is a process used by many of the academies within OAT and had been universally lauded as the most effective method of ensuring phones are not accessed during the day. This will be introduced from September 2026. In preparation, further details will be shared with you during the Summer Term, I wanted to take this opportunity to make our direction on this issue clear.

### Important dates

Easter Break	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026
Bank Holiday (academy closed)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Year 6 into 7 Transition Evening	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026
Year 13 Prom	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026

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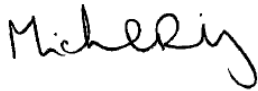
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Year 12 Work Experience	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026
Year 6 into 7 Transition Day	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
Inset Day	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026
Year 11 Prom	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
End of term (academy closes early)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

I would like to thank you for your continued support of your child(ren) and our academy, I wish you and your family a restful and safe time over the Easter break.



Yours sincerely



Mr Michael Riley  
Principal

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