



Head Teachers Message – End of Year Reflection

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank every pupil, parent, carer, and member of staff for your commitment, care, and contribution to our school community.

This year, our school has continued to grow in strength, confidence and ambition. With the successful opening of Oakland, we now have 470 learners on roll—making Calthorpe Academy one of the largest special schools in the UK. But numbers only tell part of the story. What truly defines us is the strength of our relationships, our commitment to high expectations, and the belief that every young person has the right to achieve and thrive.

We've made strong progress in several areas, including curriculum development, safeguarding practice, and staff professional development. Our work on curriculum implementation has focused on real-world outcomes and preparing learners for life beyond school. We have also strengthened our systems and protocols to ensure children are safe and valued.

Throughout the year, we've worked closely with families and professionals across the city to ensure that placements are based not only on individual needs but also on a wider understanding of what is fair and sustainable for all. This has required leadership that is both compassionate and clear—and I thank all our staff for modelling this so well.

Our school continues to be a place where inclusion is not just spoken about but lived every day. This has been a year of reflection, growth, and relentless focus on doing what is right for children and young adults.

Thank you again for being part of our journey. I wish you all a restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Warm Regards,



Mounir Meghalsi

Head Teacher





A Message from the Local Governing Body

As we come to the end of another busy school year, the governing board would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, parents, carers and families for your continued support.

To our dedicated staff team

Your commitment, creativity and care for our learners have not gone unnoticed. We know this year has brought both successes and challenges, and we are proud of the way you continue to put pupils at the heart of everything you do. Thank you for creating a school where every learner is valued and supported to achieve their potential.

To our families

Your partnership with the school is vital. We appreciate the trust you place in us and the open, constructive relationships that help make the school community stronger. Your encouragement and advocacy make a real difference.

Strengthening relationships across the Thrive Education Partnership

As part of our Trust, we benefit from being part of a wider community of schools that share expertise, resources, and opportunities for our learners and staff. The support and collaboration across the Trust have helped us grow stronger together, while also providing a platform for us to share our own expertise and best practices. We look forward to continuing to build these relationships and working closely with the Thrive Education Partnership in the year ahead.

Celebrating our community

As governors, we have seen first-hand how the school continues to grow in strength. From curriculum development to inclusion, from safeguarding to pupil voice – there is much to celebrate. A particular highlight this year has been the successful opening of the new Oakland offsite provision. We recognise the importance of this development, which has expanded our capacity and enabled us to support even more learners in a tailored environment. We remain ambitious for the future and are committed to supporting the school's leadership and wider team as we move forward together.

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Kind Regards,



Emily Wilcox

Chair of the Local Governing Body



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Sports/Wow Days 2025

Sport Days

During the month of June, learners from Learning for Life and Engagement for Life participated in their sports day at different venues.

The Learning for Life pathway participated in their sports day off-site at the amazing Norman Green stadium in Solihull. They enjoyed lots of different activities which developed their skills in track and field events. The learners had an amazing time, participating in events such as javelin, long jump and relays. The learners enjoyed competing against their peers and scoring lots of points. All classes represented a country from the Woman's Rugby World Cup and decorated T-shirts with the chosen countries flag. They received certificates and medals for both individual and class events.

A big thank you to our volunteers from Lighthall School for helping lead the stations and for giving lots of encouragement to all of the learners. This year we also had learners from Oakland, Foundation for Life and Engagement for life join in the fun with us.





Wow Days

Learners in Foundation for Life recently enjoyed a series of exciting WOW days, visiting a variety of engaging locations including Sycamore Adventure Park, Hickory Dickories, Inflata Nation and Oakland Park. Learners practised social interaction and communication in new environments, built confidence through exploration and play, and developed their independence by navigating unfamiliar settings.

Activities at each location encouraged teamwork, turn-taking, and problem-solving, while also promoting physical development through climbing, bouncing and active play. These WOW days provided valuable opportunities for learners to transfer classroom learning into real-world contexts, enhancing their personal, social, and emotional growth in a safe and supportive way.



Andrew Blakeley

Assistant Head Teacher



Danielle Carrick-Perks

Head of PE





Celebrating Four Years as an IQM Flagship School!

We're proud to share that Calthorpe Academy has recently been assessed as part of our ongoing journey as an Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Flagship School—a prestigious national recognition we've proudly held for four years.

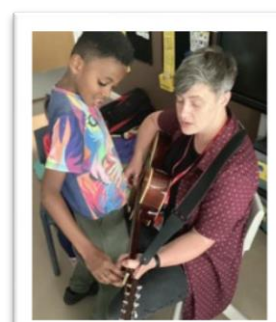
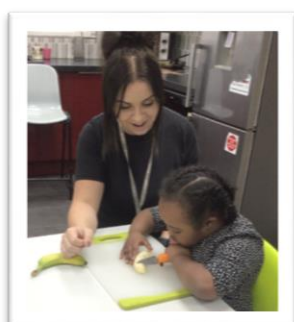
Flagship status is awarded to a select number of schools across the UK that demonstrate exceptional and sustained commitment to inclusive education. As a Flagship school, we continue to lead the way in championing inclusive practices and supporting other schools through outreach, collaboration, and shared expertise.

Our most recent project, "Building Inclusive Futures," focuses on four key areas:

- *Inclusive opportunities across settings – through partnerships with mainstream schools, local organisations, and Trust-wide provision*
- *Curriculum innovation – developing research-led approaches in Teaching & Learning and Communication that are personalised and aspirational*
- *Trust collaboration and outreach – sharing our expertise through joint CPD, model practice, and curriculum leadership*
- *Co-production and learner voice – empowering learners to shape their curriculum, provision and working with learners and parents to shape their wellbeing passports, especially those with complex communication needs*

We're thrilled that this work continues to enrich our learners' lives and influence inclusive practice beyond our own school.

We look forward to sharing our official outcome soon. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support—together, we are shaping a truly inclusive future for every learner at Calthorpe



Laura Williams

Assistant Head Teacher



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Reading

Throughout this academic year, we have continued to strengthen our whole-school approach to reading across all three sites. Reading remains a key priority, embedded from early years and adapted to meet the complex needs of our learners.

We teach reading for both purpose and pleasure using a range of approaches. These include referential objects, recognising environmental sounds, segmenting and blending, See and Learn, picture-based tools, and systematic synthetic phonics through Read Write Inc. Our learners access reading in ways that are meaningful to them, with support from a highly trained staff team.

This year, we've continued to build a culture of reading for pleasure. All learners have experienced a wide range of reading opportunities including sensory stories, immersive experiences, library visits, themed events, and storytelling workshops. Special days such as National Storytelling Day and World Book Day have helped promote engagement and enthusiasm. Our library spaces have continued to evolve, shaped by pupil voice through the Student Council. Learners have taken ownership of their own reading areas, choosing books and magazines that reflect their interests – from First News and Beano to Match of the Day comics.

We continue to invest in reading resources ensuring that all learners have access to texts aligned to their phase of learning. We are also working in partnership with Warwick University on a research project to strengthen comprehension outcomes.





Reading at Home – Summer Suggestions

Reading together at home supports communication, language development, imagination, and confidence. Here are some ways you can support your child's reading journey this summer:

- **Create a cosy reading nook** – A comfortable space with cushions, blankets, and favourite books can help promote daily reading routines.
- **Use visuals** – Picture books, objects of reference, and illustrated texts help support understanding and engagement.
- **Read aloud together** – Take turns reading or listening to stories. This builds confidence and makes reading a shared experience.
- **Choose interest-led books** – Select texts based on your child's hobbies or familiar characters to help sustain their interest.
- **Adapt materials** – Use larger text, tactile books, audio stories or simplified language to meet your child's needs.
- **Make it multisensory** – Add textures, scents, or music to enrich the story experience.
- **Explore digital formats** – Audiobooks, e-books, or interactive reading apps can offer additional motivation and support.
- **Visit your local library or bookshop** – Let your child choose what to explore. Ownership can increase independence and enjoyment.

Thank you for continuing to support your child's progress at home. We look forward to building on this in the new academic year.



Teresa Ward

Assistant Head Teacher



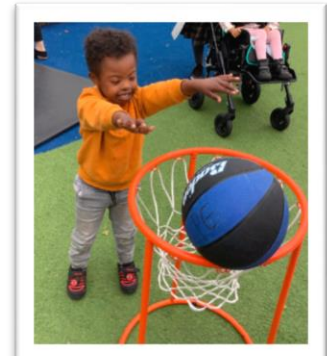
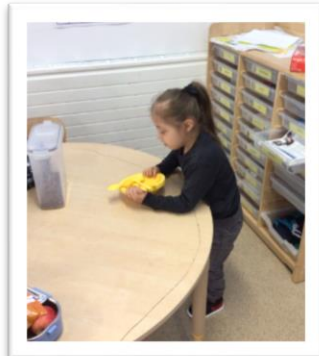
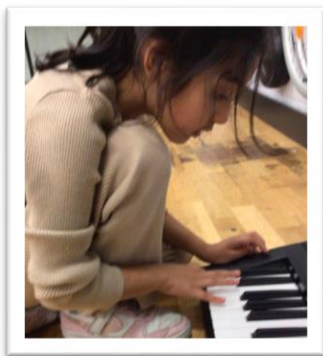


EYFS Summer Update

Within the early years department throughout the year, the pupils have immersed themselves in a rich and varied curriculum taught through play based activities. They've explored a variety of topics such as 'Stories by Julia Donaldson,' 'Animals and their habitats' and 'Celebrations.'

Over the course of the academic year, learners within the Early Years have made progress in developing independence and self-care skills through consistent routines and targeted activities. Daily tasks such as, making their own breakfast, washing hands before lunch, using cutlery during meals, and cleaning teeth are introduced and reinforced through structured practice, visual cues, and positive reinforcement. These self-care activities are integrated into the school day to promote repetition and familiarity, helping learners develop essential life skills that support their health, well-being, and independence both in and out of the classroom.

Beyond the classroom, pupils have embraced a wide range of extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities. They have been part of sports day, have taken part in choir sessions and have regularly explored nature during outdoor learning sessions. They have also been on regular trips to Hickory Dickories where they are developed their physical skills.



This half term, the learners have had a particularly magical time exploring their "Under the Sea" topic. They have engaged in learning about sea creatures and their habitats through exploring messy play. Story times were filled with ocean adventures, such as 'The rainbow fish' and 'commotion in the ocean' where learners played musical instruments to accompany the story. The topic sparked curiosity, vocabulary development, and lots of sensory exploration, helping our learners grow in confidence and independence.



Zoe Barrington

Class Teacher



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Learning for Life Summer Update

As we approach the conclusion of the academic year, it's important to reflect on the progress and achievements of our learners, whilst celebrating those who contribute to their success. Foremost among these are our learners' families and carers, whose vital role in shaping their young person's future is always valued at Calthorpe Academy.

In recognition of the importance of family engagement, we facilitate termly Parents' Mornings. This provides parents and carers with the opportunity to visit the classroom to meet and develop communication with the class team, look through workbooks and examples of work, exchange information on key targets, and connect with other parents to share experiences, ideas, and recommendations for useful organisations.

Following time spent in the classroom, parents are invited to participate in Inspire Workshops, designed to guide and inform about effective strategies and good practice. These sessions are delivered by members of the academy staff and external professionals.

This academic year, sessions have been delivered by occupational therapists on promoting independence in dressing and personal hygiene; by the Pathway Core Lead on strategies to foster reading at home; and by the academy's Speech and Language Therapist on resources to enhance children's communication skills.



Tom Willott

Extended Leader for Learning for Life



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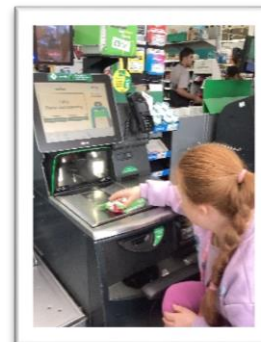
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Foundations for Life Summer Update

As the academic year comes to a close, we're thrilled to share the progress our learners in the Foundations for Life Pathway have made in building independence and essential life skills. A key highlight has been the success of our key stage 4 learners' weekly visits to Morrisons, where they shop for ingredients used in their Food Skills lessons.



These trips began with a mixture of curiosity and hesitation. For many of our learners, going to a busy supermarket was unfamiliar and, at times, overwhelming. However, with consistency, encouragement, and support from staff, learners have developed the confidence to carry out each step of the shopping process independently. From selecting and organising the shopping lists and navigating the aisles, to selecting products, paying at the tills, and managing their bags, learners have embraced this real-world challenge with growing enthusiasm.



What makes this experience particularly powerful is the direct connection to our Food Skills curriculum. After purchasing the ingredients, learners return to school and use them to prepare meals in class. This hands-on approach helps embed practical knowledge, builds routine, and reinforces the purpose behind their efforts—making learning meaningful and relevant. This experience is vital as it helps develop not only functional skills such as budgeting, sequencing, and following instructions, but also builds confidence, social interaction, and communication. These are skills that truly support greater independence and improve quality of life both now and in the future.

This initiative captures the heart of our functional curriculum, which prioritises real-life, transferable skills that prepare learners for life beyond Calthorpe. The shopping trips offer a safe, structured, and supportive way for learners to practise and apply the skills they need to thrive in everyday settings.

We are incredibly proud of our learners' achievements and look forward to continuing this work next year. Watching our young people grow in confidence and independence has been a highlight of the year—proof that with the right support, every learner can take meaningful steps toward a more independent future.



Jila Chishimba

Extended Leader for Foundations for Life

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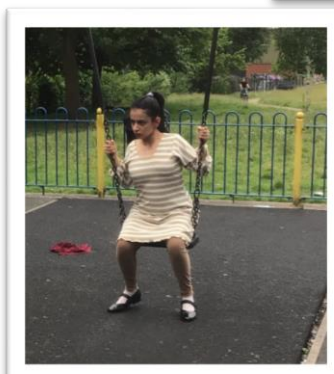
Engagement for Life Summer Update

We've had a wonderfully busy summer term in Engagement for Life, both in school and out in the wider community.

Learners thoroughly enjoyed our on-site Sports Day in June. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their achievements and put into practice the physical skills they've been developing and maintaining throughout the year.



The warmer, drier weather has allowed us to make the most of the outdoors. Whether spending time in our Engagement Garden or visiting the



local park to play on the swings and explore nature, all learners have benefited from being outside and engaging with the world around them. Some classes have also ventured into the local community, visiting places of worship and meeting new people. These experiences help to develop social skills and confidence in new settings.

Our weekly animal visits have continued to be a highlight. These sessions offer a valuable opportunity for learners to interact with animals in a calm and sensory-rich environment, supporting emotional wellbeing, communication, and engagement.

This term, we've been privileged to work alongside Jessie's Fund, bringing live music into classrooms. Their team has collaborated with teachers and teaching assistants to build confidence and skills in delivering inclusive, engaging music sessions. We're excited to continue offering high-quality musical experiences for all our learners.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you for your continued support throughout this academic year. As some of our learners prepare to move on to sixth form, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. We wish them every success as they begin this exciting next chapter.

Warm wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer.



Aimee Prentice

Extended Leader for Engagement for Life



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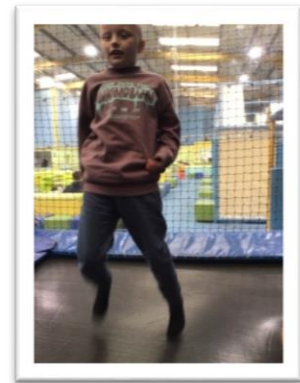


Belgravia Summer Update

This summer at Belgravia, our students have enjoyed wonderful outings to Hickory Dickory's Play Adventure Centre as part of our Sports day celebrations, where fun and learning went hand in hand.

These visits have been a fantastic opportunity for the learners to develop their physical wellbeing through active play, climbing, and exploring the exciting indoor environment. With enthusiastic support from our staff, the learners have also been nurturing important social skills — building relationships, sharing experiences, and working together during their adventures.

Through these joyful outings, our learners have strengthened their relationships and boosted their confidence, all while embracing healthy, active lifestyles. It has been a delightful end to the term, and we look forward to many more enriching experiences as we continue to grow and learn together.



Leanne Maguire

Belgravia Head of Centre



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Oakland Summer Update

We've had a truly exciting summer term here at Oakland!

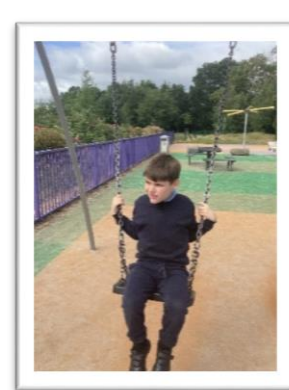
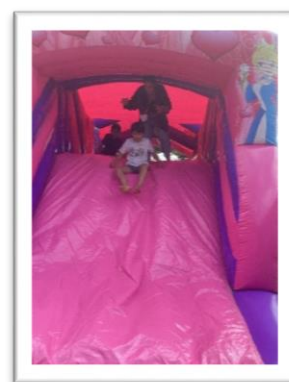
We were delighted to open a brand-new classroom, FO5, and to welcome new learners into our school community. They have settled in wonderfully and are now fully engaged with their daily routines and learning.

With the summer sunshine making an appearance, learners across all classrooms enjoyed visits to Oakland Park Playground as part of our Sports Day celebrations. It was a fantastic day filled with fun: there were slushies, ice cream and lots of bouncing on inflatables.

A group of our learners also had the opportunity to represent Oakland at Calthorpe's Sports Day held at Tudor Grange. They took part in a range of engaging activities and proudly received medals for their participation. Well done to everyone involved!

We're also very proud to announce that Oakland Kitchen received a 5-star rating in its recent Food Hygiene audit. A big congratulations and thank you to Katie and her team for their ongoing hard work.

As we look ahead, Oakland is ready and excited for a fantastic start to the 2025/2026 academic year.



Antonio Ferraz

Oakland Head of Centre



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Post 16 Summer Update

Our Sixth Form has been a hive of activity in recent weeks as pupils gear up for their upcoming Graduation and Celebration events. From creating personalised invitations and designing commemorative T-shirts to producing eye-catching posters, our learners have poured their creativity and energy into marking this special occasion. All pupils have now been measured and are ready to proudly wear their graduation gowns, a true milestone moment!

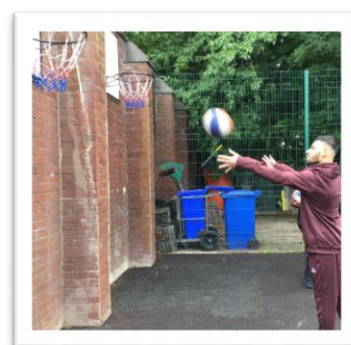


In parallel with graduation preparations, we've also been investing in improving our outdoor spaces to offer more opportunities for recreation and physical activity. As part of this ongoing work, our Post 16 outdoor space has a new basketball area. This newly upgraded outdoor facility has already proven to be a big hit with our learners, who are making the most of the space during PE sessions and break times.



Our commitment to preparing learners for adulthood goes beyond the classroom. Following a successful visit from staff at the Leonardo Hotel, who came to speak about their roles and responsibilities, we've continued to build on this exciting partnership.

Recently, some of our learners enjoyed a hands on visit to the Leonardo Hotel, offering them valuable insights into the world of work. Experiences like this play a vital role in helping our young people make informed decisions about their future employment, education, or training.



These real world encounters are instrumental in supporting a smooth transition into adulthood, boosting our learners' confidence, and fostering greater independence. We look forward to offering more opportunities that empower our young people and inspire them to aim high.



Suraj Singh

Oakland Head of Centre





Safeguarding Update

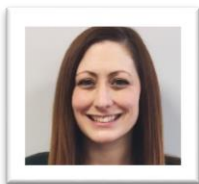
This term, our safeguarding work across all three school sites has continued to go from strength to strength. Our dedicated safeguarding team has been working closely with learners, families, and staff to make sure everyone feels safe, supported, and listened to.

We're proud to share that feedback from our annual Judicium Safeguarding Audit recognised the strong culture of safeguarding in our school. Staff shared how confident they feel in our safeguarding systems and praised the team as being approachable, knowledgeable, and always there when needed.

Our learners told us through recent surveys that they feel safe in school and know who they can talk to if they need help. Parents also reflected high levels of trust and confidence in the safeguarding support in place for their children through our parental consultation process.

We've continued to strengthen our safeguarding curriculum this term, ensuring that key topics are taught in ways that meet the needs of our learners. We were especially pleased to receive positive feedback from the local authority on our PSHE curriculum, with a request to showcase our work as a case study across Birmingham schools.

We look forward to building on this excellent work next academic year and thank you for your continued partnership in keeping all our children safe.



Laura Lee

Assistant Head Teacher



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Parental Engagement

As we wrap up another busy and fulfilling year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the success of the workshops and sessions we've held for families. It's been fantastic to see so many of you join us for events such as:

Communication Workshops
Databank Surgery (free mobile data support)
Digital Health Days
Life Skills Workshops ...and much more!

Your participation and feedback have been incredibly valuable. Here's what some of you had to say:

"Informative workshop, good suggestions for home." – Communication Workshop

"Very good informative workshop, explained thoroughly and gave examples." – Communication Workshop

"Today I am happy as I now know how to use the NHS App, thank you." – Digital Health Day

"A good start to improve the NHS App to allow parents to be more involved in the continued care and management of their children's health." – Digital Health Day

"I am happy with the workshop." – Free Mobile Data (Smartlyte & Get Families Talking)

We're so grateful for your engagement, and we look forward to continuing to support you and your families.





🏠 Need Extra Support?

Partners across Birmingham are working together to offer early help for families. If you feel you'd benefit from support — whether it's emotional wellbeing, financial advice, or educational guidance — you can refer yourself by completing the Family Connect Form:

🔗 Family Connect Self-Referral Form – Birmingham City Council

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_childrens_partnership/2156/birmingham_childrens_partnership_-_resources

📞 Concerned About a Child's Safety? Contact MASH

If you're worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, you can contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Birmingham:

MASH Helpline: **0121 303 1888**

Out-of-Hours (Emergency Duty Team): **0121 675 4806**

📞 Concerned About a Vulnerable Adult (18+)?

Contact Adult Social Care – Birmingham City Council:

Adult Safeguarding Team: **0121 303 1234**

Emergency (Out of Hours): **0121 675 4806**

For more information on support available visit our school website:

<https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/support-available>

Holiday club:

Bring it on Brum! holiday club

Bring it on Brum! Is once again running FREE holiday clubs in Birmingham in the summer school holidays for young people aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Holiday clubs will run from Monday 21st July - Friday 29th August 2025

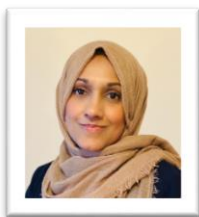
Bookings are now open: <https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/>

Your Bring it on Brum! (FSM) code is:

3307013

Wishing you all a safe, fun, and restful summer.

Warm regards,



Masuma Rajwani

Family Support Coordinator



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Attendance update

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support in improving your child's school attendance.

Your efforts whether it's establishing morning routines, encouraging school engagement or working closely with our staff has had a positive and lasting impact on your child's development and wellbeing.

Attendance Rewards

Congratulations to all those with wonderful attendance more than half of our students gained At least 90% attendance which is a fantastic achievement!

Attendance Prizes have been awarded to our most improved attendance this week. Prizes given are Kindle Tablet and certificates.



Pupil Leave of absence (Holidays in Term Time)

The six weeks school holidays are nearly here and many parents wonder about whether they can go on holiday early or during term time. We are really clear that going on holiday in term time is unlawful unless you have the advance permission of the head teacher to do so.

By law, Pupil leave of absence (holidays) can only be granted in exceptional circumstances and because of this, almost all holiday requests are denied and parents will be issued with a fixed penalty notice or court fine by the Council.

For this academic year so far 14 parents have been fined from the council for holidays taken during term so we encourage parents to not book holidays in term time. Every day in school is precious and Attendance matters. Birmingham Education intervention Legal team have shared for parents/ carers penalty Notices are issued per parent per child.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance and would like support please contact us on

0121 773 4637

Reporting absences

If your child is absent for an unavoidable reason such as illness, please contact school on **0121 773 4637** to speak to us, or leave a voicemail.



Medical appointments

To reduce avoidable absence, please book routine appointments like dental check-ups outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, we encourage people to book appointments at the start or the end of the day to minimise disruption and maximise your child's time at school.

2025 – 2026 Academic Year Term Dates:

Winter Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 1st September 2025

Half-term: Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Term ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 5th January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13th April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term ends: Monday 20th July 2026

Teacher Training Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 17th July 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

The Academy will be closed for an additional Trust Training Day- the date for this has not yet been confirmed.



Rabia Hassan

Attendance Officer



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