



New School Year Update

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you and your families are well and have had a lovely summer. I just want to provide an update regarding the new school year starting next week.

Changes for 2025-26

As of September the school will be increasing in size, growing from ninety to ninety-six places; eighty places will be for pupils who have been, or are at risk of Permanent Exclusion, the other sixteen places are for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), primarily for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Class structures for September will be as follows:

- Key Stage 2 Two classes, eight pupils per class; classes will be mixed based on pupil needs.
- Key Stage 3 Three classes, ten pupils per class; classes will be mixed based on pupil needs.
- Key Stage 4 Five classes, ten pupils per class, two classes in Year 10 and three classes in Year 11

The staff team has been significantly expanded for the new school year; this includes the following additions / changes to roles:

- Teachers
 - Adian Lumb – Key Stage 2
 - Lewis Vassell – Computing and Maths
 - Angela Wain – SEMH
- Behaviour for Learning (BfL) Team
 - Libby Bowling – BfL Lead at KS2
 - Stevieleigh Thorpe – BfL Lead at KS3 & KS4
 - Laura Anderson – BfL Mentor
 - Chris Cocker – BfL Mentor
 - Fabian Peart – BfL Mentor
 - Paul Heaton – BfL Mentor
 - Joel Booth – BfL Mentor
 - Grace Nelson – BfL Apprentice
 - Ifza Bilal – BfL Apprentice



- EHCP Support Team
 - James Cook – Therapist / Counsellor
 - Simon Wainman – Therapist / Counsellor
 - Nedha Jabeen – Cover Supervisor
 - Sanya Kuwall – Progress Tutor
 - Sarah Griffiths – Progress Tutor
 - Kerrie Stringer – Progress Tutor
 - Gio Allen – Progress Tutor, previously BfL Lead
 - Royce Gudgin – Progress Tutor, previously BfL Mentor
 - Michaela Potter – Progress Tutor, previously BfL Mentor
- Safeguarding / Admin. / Site Teams
 - Ian (Ted) McDougall – Home-School Liaison
 - Kady Gladwin – Administrative Apprentice
 - Leanne Smorthit – Cook
 - Ellie Brown – Cleaner

The new, expanded staff team will allow us to further improve and develop our offer to the pupils in our care every day; the team will be able to provide even more bespoke learning to suit the diverse needs of the pupils in the Academy. Over the coming weeks, new staff, and existing staff in new roles, will make contact with you to introduce themselves and explain how they will be supporting pupils in their roles.

Finally, we have invested significant funds into further developing and improving the buildings, completed works include:

Main Site

- New main doors and external entrance rendering.
- Renovated the front office and Reception area.
- Built a new pupil entrance, off the main hall – this will be the only point of access for pupils in the new school year.
- Renovated the Computing room.
- Installed four new rooms for targeted support sessions for pupils.
- Bespoke 'Working Boards' installed in targeted spaces.
- Refit of the Meeting room and previous Nurture room, to create two totally separate spaces, the Nurture room will be further developed once pupils return.
- Created a new room for Therapy / Counselling sessions.
- Installed Air Conditioning in the two upstairs classrooms.
- Installed a new large window in our AtS provision, as well as modifying desks pupils work at in AtS.



Key Stage 2

- Installed a new room for targeted support sessions for pupils, meaning there will be two bespoke spaces for such work from September.
- Installed a bench in the Reflection area for safer use of physical control / restraints.
- Bespoke branded blinds installed in classrooms, Contravision panels installed on windows to limit vision into classrooms from outside.
- Bespoke 'Working Boards' installed in targeted spaces.

Start of the new school year

School will re-open to staff on Monday 1st September for an INSET Day, Tuesday 2nd September will also be an INSET Day.

- All pupils will be expected back in school on Wednesday 3rd September;
 - KS3 & KS4 pupils should be in school by 09:00
 - KS2 pupils should be in school by 09:10

Uniform

We fully intend on starting the year with all pupils in full, correct school uniform, this includes all Key Stage 2 pupils; below are the details of the school uniform.

KS2 Uniform	KS3 / KS4 Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain black trousers or black knee length skirt.• White polo shirt.• Plain black V-Neck jumper.• Black footwear suitable for a busy school environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain black trousers or black knee length skirt.• White shirt - short or long sleeved, no polo shirts.• Plain black V-neck / Crew-neck jumper.• Black footwear suitable for a busy school environment.

If pupils arrive at school and are not in correct uniform, they will be directed to return home to change, and sanctions will be applied on their return to school; staff will liaise with the Assistant Headteachers / Deputy Headteacher when this is required.



School Day

The following sections are a reminder of the school day for the different key stages in school; the most notable change is the timings for Key Stage 2, they will have a longer Lesson 3 and shorter Interventions session each day from September compared to 2024-25.

Key Stage 2

- 09:10 - 09:20 Form Time
- 09:20 - 10:10 Lesson 1
- 10:10 - 11:00 Lesson 2
- 11:00 - 11:10 Break
- 11:10 - 12:00 Lesson 3
- 12:00 - 12:20 Interventions / Literacy
- 12:20 - 12:40 Lunch
- 12:40 - 13:30 Lesson 4
- 13:30 - 14:20 Lesson 5

Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4

- 09:00 - 09:10 Form Time
- 09:10 - 10:00 Lesson 1
- 10:00 - 10:50 Lesson 2
- 10:50 - 11:50 Lesson 3 / Break
- 11:50 - 12:10 Interventions / Literacy
- 12:10 - 13:20 Lesson 4 / Lunch
- 13:20 - 14:10 Lesson 5

Cohort	Break	Lunch
KS3	10:50 - 11:00	12:10 - 12:30
Year 10	11:05 - 11:15	12:35 - 12:55
Year 11	11:20 - 11:30	13:00 - 13:20

Lockers / Personal Belongings

In the new school year, we will continue to have lockers available for all pupils, pupils should only bring essential items into school. All pupils will be provided with all the equipment they need by teachers and our BfL Mentors. When entering the school building pupils will be expected to hand in all personal possessions to staff; this includes coats, bags, mobile phones, vapes etc. These possessions will then be securely locked away in pupil lockers for the remainder of the school day.



When there are concerns about what pupils may be bringing into school, we will conduct 'bag checks' to ensure that no illicit items are being brought into the academy. At the end of the school day pupils will have their possessions returned; those pupils who have detentions / sanction time after school will receive their possessions only when the sanction is completed.

From September, pupils at the main site will now enter through a new entrance which has been built at the side of the building - off the main hall. On arrival to school, pupils should use the intercom by the side gate, the Admin. team will then release the gate so pupils can access the new entrance. Staff will then greet pupils in the new entrance, conducting the usual checks and taking person items to be locked away in lockers.

Transport

Locations and timings of our minibus in the mornings and afternoons have been revised for the new school year, to reflect the changes in where pupils are based; a detailed breakdown is below. Please do read the schedule carefully, the minibus will not wait for pupils, we do expect them to be on time at each pick-up / drop-off point.

As with last year, there will be just one minibus run in the afternoon, there are only fifteen seats available and the pupils with the highest 'Net' points score for the day will be given priority. Please remind pupils that vaping, smoking etc. is not allowed, any pupils caught doing so will be banned from the bus.

Morning – Route One

07:30 Minibus leaves the Academy
07:50 Siddal, Oxford Lane – outside Pharmacy
07:55 West Vale Academy, Bus Stop on Rochdale Road
08:05 Elland, outside B&M
08:15 Parsonage Lane / Gooder St, Methodist Church
08:30 Minibus arrives at the Academy

Morning – Route Two

08:30 Minibus leaves the Academy
08:35 Mixenden, Clough Lane – below Hambleton Drive
08:40 Pellon, Albert Road – below the junction with Highroad Well Lane
08:42 Pellon, Hanson Lane – opposite CAIR
08:50 Pellon Lane – Beech Hill School
08:53 Opposite Laura Mitchell
08:55 Lee Mount, Ovenden Road – junction with Ovenden Way
09:00 Minibus arrives at the Academy



Afternoon Route

14:20 Minibus leaves the Academy
14:30 Vue, bus layby
14:40 Siddal, Oxford Lane – outside Pharmacy
14:45 West Vale Academy, Bus Stop on Rochdale Road
14:55 Elland, outside B&M

Term Dates 2025-26

2025 Autumn 1

INSET Day

INSET Day

Re-open to pupils

Close for Half-Term

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

2025 Autumn 2

INSET Day

Re-open to pupils

Close for Christmas

Monday 3rd November 2025

Tuesday 4th November 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

2026 Spring 1

INSET Day

Re-open to pupils

Close for Half-Term

Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Friday 13th February 2026

2026 Spring 2

Re-open to pupils

Close for Easter

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 27th March 2026

2026 Summer 1

Re-open to pupils

Closed for May Day

Close for Half-Term

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 4th May 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

2026 Summer 1

Re-open to pupils

Close for Midsummer

INSET Day

Monday 1st June 2026

Friday 17th July 2026

Monday 20th July 2026 (Disaggregated)



Lunches

Due to increased costs of ingredients, energy and staffing, we have been instructed by the Trust to increase our lunch prices for the new school year; from September, lunches will now be £2.75 per day, £13.75 per week.

On a more positive note, we have recruited a new cook for the kitchen – Mrs Smorthit is a very experienced cook and over the coming weeks and months she will be significantly expanding the menu available to pupils, we will be asking pupils for suggestions for meals.





Safeguarding at the Academy

Safeguarding is everybody's business and part of our role in the Academy is to ensure we keep pupils, staff and volunteers safe.

Safeguarding is the overriding priority at the Academy and includes aspects such as first aid provision, medical care plans, attendance, anti-bullying, risk assessments within the Academy and for educational visits, the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers etc., along with the more obvious areas of Child Protection, Child Sexual Exploitation and Prevent.

There are six members of staff who are Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in the Academy. Their role is to support other professionals in the Academy to recognise the needs of children, including protecting from possible abuse or neglect.

Who's who?

<p>Mrs R Adams</p> <p>Deputy Headteacher</p> 	<p>Mrs Catherine Maun</p> <p>Safeguarding & SEMH Lead</p> 
<p>Mr A Reid</p> <p>BfL Lead</p> 	<p>Mr P Hannah</p> <p>Headteacher</p> 



Ms R Bounocore

KS2 Lead



Ms R Bartley

Attendance & Engagement
Officer



If you have any safeguarding concerns, no matter how trivial they may seem, please raise them with Mrs Adams or Mrs Maun in the first instance.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information and I hope it has provided you with some reassurance and clarification of the steps we are taking in the new school year.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Hannah
Headteacher, The Whitley AP Academy