



New School Year Update – 2026-27

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you and your families are well and enjoying the lovely weather we have been having recently, I'm sure the pupils are looking forward to enjoying the summer break. I just want to provide an update regarding the new school year starting in September.

Changes for September

As of September we will continue to provide eighty places for pupils who have been, or are at risk of Permanent Exclusion, the other sixteen places will be for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), primarily for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

We will however be revising numbers in in terms of places available throughout the different key stages. Class structures from September will be as follows:

- Key Stage 2 Two groups, six pupils per group; groups will be mixed age, based on pupil needs.
- Key Stage 3 Three groups, ten pupils per group; groups will be mixed age, based on pupil needs.
- Key Stage 4 Five groups, four with eleven pupils per group – two groups in Year 10 and two groups in Year 11, one group of ten which may include pupils from Years 10 and 11.

The staff team is changing for the new school year; the following staff are leaving us at the end of the year:

- Teachers
 - Ms Buonocore; Moving to Warley Road Academy.
- Associate staff:
 - Ms Helme; Moving to Carlton Bolling.
 - Ms Blakeley; Teacher Training.

New staff joining the Academy from September are:

- Teachers
 - Mr Smith; Food Tech., Hospitality & Tourism and PE.
 - Ms Taylor; English



- Associate staff:
 - Miss Midgeley
 - Miss Kibble

The following staff have recently joined us, or are moving into new roles in September:

- Teachers
 - Ms Powell; moving to the SEN team, leading BTEC Health & Social Care.
 - Ms Wain; Joining the KS2 team.
 - Mr Latham; Will be on sabbatical for the Autumn and Spring terms.
- Associate staff:
 - Mr Bromley; BfL Lead for KS3 / KS4.
 - Ms Bartley; Progress Tutor for KS2.
 - Ms O'Leary; Progress Tutor for KS3 / KS4.
 - Ms Nabi; Progress Tutor for KS3 / KS4.
 - Mr Holloway; BfL Mentor for KS3 / KS4.
 - Mr Francis; BfL Mentor for KS3 / KS4.
 - Mr Twigg; BfL Mentor for KS3 / KS4.

As usual, we are continuing to invest in the school buildings / learning environment, the following works are planned for the summer break.

Main Site

- The Design Technology / Construction room will be completely renovated, new bespoke storage built all around the room for pupils' projects to be stored securely; new pupil stations built around a 'U-Shape' design to create more independent learning, with improved oversight from staff.
- The Food Technology room will be fully renovated, layout of the room to be based on an island in the middle of the room, with five stations for pupils to work at in pairs, encouraging collaborative learning.
- Science room to have existing tables and seating removed, replaced by new large 'U-Shape' table – improving access / inclusion in the classroom.
- New boilers installed to improve heating.
- School environment refreshed, with feature walls linked to curriculum being installed in classrooms.



Key Stage 2

- School environment refreshed throughout the building, to include displays linked to key learning concepts. There will also be a focus on pupil wellbeing throughout the provision.
- Two outside learning environments are being built at the primary site, the groundworks for the two projects will be completed over the summer break; the two spaces / buildings will be completed in September, they will be:
 - At the end of the playground, across from the building, there will be a canopied space, useable year-round, two sides will be open to the elements.
 - On the raised pocket of land to the side of the building, we will be building a 'cabin' style classroom, this will be an enclosed space, useable year-round.

Start of the new school year

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

- All pupils will be expected back in school on Thursday 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
• Plain black trousers. • White polo shirt. • Plain black V-Neck / Crew Neck jumper, no logos. • Black footwear, with no other colours, no visible logos; suitable for a busy school environment.	• Plain black trousers. • White shirt - short or long sleeved, no polo shirts. • Plain black V-neck. • Black footwear, with no other colours, no visible logos; suitable for a busy school environment.



For health and safety reasons, skirts are no longer part of the school uniform, all pupils should wear plain black trousers.

Jewellery should be discreet and appropriate for school. Rings and necklaces are not permitted. Pupils may wear one plain stud earring in each ear; hoop and hanging earrings are not allowed.

For health and safety reasons, nails should be natural in appearance and maintained at or below fingertip length.

Additional Clothing Expectations:

- To maintain a smart and consistent appearance, shorts, tracksuit bottoms, leggings, or any other garments must not be worn underneath school trousers.
- Pupils may wear a plain white T-shirt beneath their school shirt; however, it must not be visible above the collar, at the sleeves, or below the hem of the shirt.
- Leggings are not permitted as an alternative to school trousers or as an additional layer.

Pupils are expected to attend school in full uniform and in accordance with the school's dress code at all times. 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.

Key Stage 2

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| • 09:10 - 09:20 | Let's Go |
| • 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 | What I Need (WIN) |
| • 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 Let's Go
- 09:10 - 10:00 Lesson 1
- 10:00 - 10:50 Lesson 2
- 10:50 - 11:50 Lesson 3 / Break
- 11:50 - 12:10 What I Need (WIN)
- 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; illicit items will be confiscated, and the appropriate authorities will be notified if necessary. 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.

On arrival to school, pupils should make their way to the 'Purple Line', put all possessions away, and use the intercom by the side gate, the Admin. team will then release the gate so pupils can access the entrance. Staff will then greet pupils, conduct the usual checks and take personal items to be secured 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 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
07:45 Skircoat Road – old bus depot
08:00 Elland, outside B&M
08:15 Southowram – Cock & Bottle pub
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 – ASDA
08:42 Pellon, Hanson Lane – opposite CAIR
08:47 Pellon Lane – Running Man pub
08:50 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
14:50 Elland, outside B&M



Term Dates 2026-27

2026 Autumn 1

INSET Day

INSET Day

Re-open

Close for Half-Term

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

2026 Autumn 2

INSET Day

Re-open

INSET Day

Close for Christmas

Monday 2nd November 2026

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

Friday 27th November 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

2027 Spring 1

INSET Day

Re-open

Close for Half-Term

Monday 4th January 2027

Tuesday 5th January 2027

Friday 12th February 2027

2027 Spring 2

Re-open

Close for Easter

Monday 22nd February 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

2027 Summer 1

Re-open

Closed for May Day

Close for Half-Term

Monday 12th April 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

2027 Summer 1

Re-open

Close for Midsummer

Monday 7th June 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

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?

		
Mrs Adams Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Maun Safeguarding & SEMH Lead	Mr Reid BfL Lead
		
Mr Hannah Headteacher	Ms Willingham BfL Manager	Ms Potter KS2 BfL Lead

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