



The Lowry Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Weekly Parent Communications



Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience



Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

We are now halfway through the Year 11 mock exams, and it has been wonderful to see our students approaching them with such focus and determination. Thank you for the encouragement you're giving at home – it really does make a difference. Please continue to support them through the final stretch next week.

On Tuesday, the whole school came together for our Remembrance Service. We observed a two-minute silence, followed by a beautiful poppy drop carried out by our Year 10 students from the balcony. It was a moving moment for our school community. If you haven't yet seen it, photos and videos are available on our social media channels.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our Christmas Fair on Tuesday 9th December, 4pm - 6pm. We warmly encourage all families to attend – there will be food, games, stalls, and plenty of festive spirit. All funds raised will go towards supporting the Year 11 end-of-year Prom, so your involvement is greatly appreciated.

This week, our Key Stage 3 students are continuing to prepare for their mid-year assessments. Each student has received a revision booklet outlining the topics they need to focus on; this can also be accessed on our school website ([Mid Year Assessments | Students | The Lowry Academy](#)). Please support your child in building positive study habits at home – small, regular revision sessions now will make a big difference later in the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,
Claire Coy





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Year 8 Mobile Phone Pouch Rollout **Supporting Focused Learning and Academic Excellence**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important change we are introducing for Year 8 students from Thursday 27th November: the use of mobile phone pouches during the school day.

This follows a highly successful rollout with Year 7, where we have seen:

- A more focused and calm learning environment across lessons and social times.
- A significant reduction in unnecessary sanctions related to mobile phone use.
- Students feeling more present and engaged in their learning.

The pouch system allows students to retain their mobile phones throughout the day, but they are securely stored in a locked pouch which cannot be opened until the end of the school day. This means students still have their phones with them for safety and communication before and after school, while ensuring they are not a distraction during learning time.

Why Are We Making This Change?

Recent research supports our approach. Studies show that limiting mobile phone use during the school day can:

- Improve concentration and academic performance, especially for students who find it harder to focus.
- Reduce distractions and multitasking, which are linked to lower test scores and weaker memory.
- Support student wellbeing by reducing exposure to online conflict and social pressures during school hours.

This change is part of our broader commitment to academic excellence. By removing unnecessary distractions, we're creating an environment where every student can focus, engage deeply in learning, and achieve their best. Many other schools have successfully implemented similar mobile phone policies and are seeing positive results.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will my child still have access to their phone in an emergency?

Yes. Students keep their phones with them in the pouch, which is unlocked at the end of the school day. In case of a genuine emergency, staff can unlock the pouch.

Q: What if I need to contact my child during the day?

Please contact the school office as usual. We will ensure any urgent messages are passed on promptly.

Q: Can students use their phones at break or lunch?

No. The pouch remains locked throughout the school day to maintain consistency and reduce distractions.



Q: What happens if a student tampers with the pouch?

Tampering with the pouch will be treated as a behaviour concern. Students are expected to follow the same expectations as Year 7, who have responded very positively.

Q: Is this a permanent change?

We will review the impact regularly, but early evidence from Year 7 and national research suggests this approach is highly beneficial for learning and wellbeing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,

Nicola Griffith
Vice Principal – Pastoral

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Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?



Free School Meals - your child receives a choice of a meal (hot or cold) each day in school and, for those families who qualify, School Holiday Vouchers.

Benefit-Based Eligibility

You may be eligible if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit, provided your household's net income is no more than £7,400 per year
- Child Tax Credit only (not Working Tax Credit) and your household income is no more than £16,190 per year
- Working Tax Credit run-off
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Salford City Council Update

A recent review highlighted that many households may **meet the criteria** for free school meals but **have not yet made an application** for one reason or another.

How to Apply:

- Apply online by visiting: www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/
- Go, in person, to the Walkden Gateway Centre (2 Smith Street, Walkden)

If you need help applying online, we can also help you here at The Lowry Academy. Contact us by emailing Ask.Lowry@lowryacademy.org.uk and someone from our school will be in touch to support you.

Key Stage 3 – Mid-Year Assessments

Mid-Year Assessments: How to Help at Home

At the start of this week, students have begun their six week revision in preparation for our Mid-Year Assessments for Key Stage 3:

www.lowryacademy.org.uk/students/mid-year-assessments



When?

Their Mid-Year Assessments in these subjects will take place:

Subject	Week Beginning
English	12 th January 2026
Maths	12th/19 th January 2026
Science	5th/12th/19 th January 2026



How can you Help?

At the start of each week, check in with your child and ask them to show you and explain their revision plan for the coming week (based on the topics they need to revise for their mid-year assessments).

After your child completes some revision, you could:

Ask them to explain to you the key knowledge they have learned. (Your child will have access to a 'knowledge organiser', you may wish to refer to the relevant section(s).)



For Maths:

Ask them to go through the steps to complete e.g. some maths problems they have been practicing to solve.



For English:

Ask them to discuss the setting they have created for their narrative story (Year 7 & 8), or for Year 9 ask them to explain who John Proctor is.



For Science:

Year 7 - Ask them to describe the different separation techniques used to separate mixtures and substances;

Year 8 - Ask them to describe the trends of the elements in Group 1 and 7 of the Periodic Table;

Year 9 - Ask them to explain how metals can displace one another from their compounds.



Key Stage 3 – Revision Topics

Weekly
Reminders

Year 7

Subject	Topics to Revise	Links to Revision Resources
English	Practise creating a setting for your own narrative story. Focus on ambitious vocabulary and imagery. Use the setting to create a particular mood.	Year 7 Mid-Year Revision Booklet
Maths	Order of Operations	SPARX Code: M521
Science	<p>Chemistry (7.01) - Particles separation techniques.</p> <p>Revise the different methods for separating mixtures of substances, e.g. filtration, crystallisation/evaporation, distillation, chromatography.</p>	<p>UL Curriculum Pupil Website</p> <p>Separating Mixtures: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118179</p> <p>Rock salt: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118190</p> <p>Distillation: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118193</p> <p>Chromatography: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118204</p> <p>SPARX codes: Separating mixtures - F485 Filtration - F406 Distillation - F245 Evaporation - F266 Chromatography - F186 Interpreting chromatograms - F309 Y7 Knowledge organiser: Page 23 of the knowledge organiser</p>

Year 8

Subject	Topics to Revise	Links to Revision Resources
English	Practise creating a setting for your own narrative story. Focus on ambitious vocabulary and imagery. Use the setting to create a particular mood.	Year 8 Mid-Year Revision Booklet
Maths	Prime Factorisation	SPARX Codes: M322, M823, M108, M365, M227, M698
Science	<p>Chemistry (8CP) Atoms and the Periodic Table Patterns in behaviour and chemical reactions. Revise the trends in Group 1 and Group 7 in terms of melting points, density, and reactivity. Practice writing word equations and balancing simple chemical equations.</p>	<p>UL Curriculum Pupil Website</p> <p>Group 1: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118789</p> <p>Group 7: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118790</p> <p>Group 7 displacement: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=118794</p> <p>SPARX codes: Predicting properties using the periodic table - F203 Group 1 - Alkali metals - F782 Group 7 - Halogens - F632 Balancing chemical equations - F686 Y8 Knowledge organiser: Pages 28 and 29 of the knowledge organiser; sections 2, 3 and 7.</p>

Key Stage 3 – Revision Topics



Year 9

Subject	Topics to Revise	Links to Revision Resources
English	Revise the characterisation of John Proctor Revise how to create a successful Problem paragraph	UL Pupil facing curriculum: Lesson Three: Characterisation of John Proctor: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=121528 Booklet to be given out in lesson
Maths	Estimation and Limits of Accuracy	SPARX Codes: U480, U298, U731, U965, U225, U657, U587, U108, U301
Science	Chemistry (9CR) Reactivity series and displacement reactions. Revise how metals can displace one another from their compounds, based on their relative reactivity and how this can be linked to metal extraction methods.	<p>UL Curriculum Pupil Website Metal ores (oxidation/reduction/displacement): https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=119072 Reactivity: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=119071 Displacement: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=119077 Review lesson: https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Pupil?r=119093</p> <p>SPARX codes: Extracting metals - F957 Displacement reactions - F564 The reactivity series - F986</p> <p>Y9 Knowledge organiser: Page 27 of the knowledge organiser; sections 8, 9, and 11.</p>

Don't Forget – Mid-Year Assessment Dates:



Subject	Week Beginning
English	12 th January 2026
Maths	12 th /19 th January 2026
Science	5 th /12 th /19 th January 2026

Quality of Education

Curriculum Spotlight – Religious Education

The purpose of the Religious Education curriculum is for students to know and understand a range of religious and non-religious worldviews and be able to critically engage with those views. Students should gain an appreciation for how these worldviews have impacted the world they live in at a local, national and global level.

What students are learning this half term and why it's important

Year 7: Origins of the Abrahamic Faiths/Judaism

Learning about the origins of the Abrahamic faiths is important because it helps us understand shared beliefs, historical connections, and the roots of cultural and ethical traditions that shape much of the world today. Learning about Judaism is important because it deepens understanding of one of the world's oldest monotheistic faiths, fostering respect, tolerance, and insight into cultural and ethical traditions that have shaped history and society.

Year 8: Islam

Learning about Islam is important because it helps us to understand that the religion of Islam is a religion of peace and submission to one God (Allah); it also promotes understanding, respect, and peaceful coexistence in a diverse world.

Year 9: Ethical issues e.g. abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment

Learning about ethical issues means exploring different religious and moral perspectives on complex topics such as abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, considering arguments for and against each issue, and understanding how these debates influence beliefs, laws, and personal decision-making.

Year 10: Christian Beliefs - including Salvation, Life after death, Problem of evil and suffering

This is important because it helps people understand the foundations of Christian faith, how these beliefs influence moral choices and responses to suffering, and how they shape attitudes toward life, death, and the purpose of existence.

Year 11: Living the Muslim Life – including the Five Pillars of Islam

This is important because it helps people understand the core practices that shape Muslim faith and daily life, their role in expressing submission to Allah, and how they create unity, discipline, and a sense of community among believers worldwide.

How you can Support at Home

- **KS3** - encourage and check completion of revision for upcoming RE mastery quizzes, fluency quizzes in lessons and assessed pieces of work.
- **Year 10** – encourage and check completion of homework tasks (including revision for fluency quizzes and answering exam questions). Students can use the revision guide they have been given to assist them in completing their homework.
- **Year 11** – encourage and check completion of revision for mock exam on Christianity due to take place on Monday 17th November. Encourage and check completion of homework tasks (including revision for fluency quizzes and answering exam questions). Students can use the revision guide they have been given to assist them in completing their homework.

Fun RE Challenge – Ask your Child!

Year 7:

What happened in the story of the Exodus?

Year 8:

What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

Year 9:

What is Situation Ethics?

Year 10:

What is salvation?

Year 11:

What are the Six Beliefs of Islam? What are the Five Roots?



Education With Character

Education with Character: The Lowry Way

Living The Lowry Way

Last week we reminded ourselves of The Lowry Academy Values. Our values are more than words - they are lived through our actions, choices, and relationships every day. We teach them, model them, and seek them in everything we do.

Values

Values are the **principles or beliefs** that a school or individual holds to be important. They guide what we stand for and what we aim to promote. At The Lowry Academy, values like **Aspiration, Confidence, Creativity, Resilience, and Respect** represent the ideals we want every student to understand and strive toward.

Think of values as the “**what**” – what we believe in.

Virtues

Virtues are the **behaviours, habits, and qualities** that demonstrate those values in action. They are the “**how**” – how we live out our values through choices and conduct.

For example:

- To live the value of **Respect**, a student might show the virtues of **kindness, empathy, and justice**.
- To embody **Resilience**, they might demonstrate **perseverance, patience, and emotional strength**.

Virtues are often developed through practice, reflection, and role modelling – they are the building blocks of good character.

In short - **Values** are the principles we believe in. **Virtues** are the behaviours that show those values in action.

Values guide what we stand for. **Virtues** show how we live it.

Together, we are shaping not just successful students, but principled, thoughtful citizens of the future.

Thank you for being part of our character journey.

Education with Character

Celebrating success this week!

Well done to the students below who have attained their Bronze Award this week!

Student	Year	Student	Year
Pearl E	11	Jasmine F	7
Erick F R	8	Theo L-B	8
Excel E	7	Jamie-Lee W	7
Oluwadamilola O	10	Omolola A	9
Jessica N	8	Faith I	7
Ava W	7	Sinead H	7
Isabella L	7	Jessica I	7



Congratulations to the top 20 students below who are close to achieving their Bronze Award
1,000 points needed to reach Bronze!



Student	Year	Points	Points to Bronze Award
Annabella E	8	991	9
Itohan M	9	985	15
Martha O	9	971	29
Sienna H	7	969	31
Kevin N	8	940	60
Rosie R	7	939	61
Fleurrette W	8	930	70
Adiya E	7	928	72
Sophia W	7	922	78
Sonny H	7	920	80
George M	8	920	80
Michelle O	8	910	90
Jayden M	7	903	97
Manha B	7	895	105
Oliver N	7	884	116
Heloiza A	8	882	118
Keven T	10	881	119
Christopher P R	8	879	121
Clinton L	8	878	122
Ching Nam C	8	875	125

Students can visit **The Celebration Station** every Tuesday and Thursday to share their fantastic work and collect Golden Tickets.

They can enter our raffle by posting their **Values Cards** in the blue post box every Tuesday and Thursday.

Students can take part in our **weekly house events** to collect house points.

Education With Character

House Update – Events this Week

House Basketball Shootout Brings Energy and Character to Lowry Academy!

Students went head-to-head in a thrilling penalty-style basketball shootout, showcasing not just skill but the core Lowry values of Confidence, Creativity, Respect, Resilience, and Aspiration. From cheering teammates to bouncing back after missed shots, the challenge embodied Education with Character—building perseverance, teamwork, and ambition while celebrating house spirit.

Points Update

Pankhurst
105,288

Kingsley
106,274

Delaney
105,743

Turing
103,155

Total points this year = 420,460

Upcoming House Events



10 House Points per event attended!



Digital Skills Classes for Parents

Dear Parents / Carers,

We still have places for our Digital Skills Parent classes next Tuesday 19th November and Tuesday 26th November between 3.30pm and 4.30pm

If you would like some support with learning or improving your I.T skills and being able to help your children with their online homework as well as keeping them safe online, then this is a great opportunity to have some time and help in person with our wonderful Computer Science Teacher Mrs Maloney.

All parents that attend will also receive a handy helpful guide to support the session.

If you would like to book please email ask.lowry@lowryacademy.org.uk and Mrs Smith will be in touch to confirm your place

Alternatively there are other projects and classes that you may be interested in accessing. Please see some useful links below:

[Beginners | Digital Everyone](#)

[Get Online Greater Manchester: Digital Skills Map - Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

[Salford Community Upskilling – Upskilling a Community for a Greater Future](#)

[Resources | Digital Inclusion Triage Tool - Salford](#)

[Community Activities | Age Friendly Salford](#)

If you have any questions then please do reach out to me via Ask Lowry or call me on 0161 529 5200.

Kind regards,

Mrs Smith
Transition & Community Lead

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Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience



Salford Digital Heroes Competition – free entry with £20,000 of Prizes to be won

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to announce that The Lowry Academy has been invited to take part in a competition that gives us the opportunity to win £5,000 for our school to help pupils access the latest technology and develop their digital skills.

All pupils who enter have the opportunity to win a £500 voucher to buy technology for themselves.

To enter, pupils need to record and submit a 2 to 3 minute interview with an adult who lives or works in Salford, their Digital Hero, about their Hero's use of digital technology in their work.

The first 25 entries in each age group will also win a voucher for tickets to Supermassive Immersive Experience which is running at Mayfield Depot until 23 November 2025.

The competition in each age category will close to entries once 100 entries have been received in each age group, or at 10:00pm on 17 November 2025, so don't delay.

Simple instructions, interview questions, top tips and guides, along with the competition Terms and Conditions can be found here: [Salford Everyday Digital Heroes Competition - Media City UK](#).

Yours faithfully,

Mrs V Moloney
Head of Computing and Business

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Dates for your Diary

Please make a note of the following dates, further information will be sent to families closer to specific events:

Date(s)	Relevant to	Event
Monday 10 th - Friday 21 st November	Year 11	Mock Exams
Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st November	All Families	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 24 th November - Wednesday 3 rd December	Year 11	Art, Textiles & Photography Exams
Thursday 27 th November	All Families	Enrichment Day - Education with Character
Wednesday 3 rd December	All Families	Author in School - James Campbell
Thursday 4 th December	Year 11	Parents Evening
Friday 5 th December	All Families	INSET Day - School closed to students
Tuesday 9 th December	All Families	Christmas Fair 4pm - 6pm

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