



The Lowry Academy

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Part of United Learning

Weekly Parent Communications



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Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. I'm beginning this week's letter with a plea for help. You will read in this week's communications that we are looking for parents or guardians who are fluent in Portuguese, Urdu, Persian (Farsi and Dari), or Cantonese, who would be willing to assist us in conducting some GCSE speaking exams in these languages. If you may be able to help, please see the letter in this week's mailing and contact Mrs Gallagher.

What's going on in school this week?

Today, our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an assembly delivered by BAE and the Royal Navy. It was a fantastic experience—please ask your child about the robot dog they saw!

Year 9 students have recently attended GCSE taster subject sessions, and our Options booklet will be published soon to support them in making their choices. As I write this on Thursday, we are preparing for our Year 10 Parents' Evening later today. Meanwhile, our Year 11 students are busy revising for their mock exams, which will take place after half-term. During the half-term break, 28 students and 3 staff members will be heading off to Barcelona, Spain, for an exciting school trip. We wish them all a fantastic time and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.

Term-Time Holidays

With the half term coming up you may be considering booking a holiday. If you are, I hope you have a fantastic time, but politely ask that your child does not take additional days at the start of next half term to extend the holiday.

I want to remind all families that parents and carers do not have the right to take their children out of school during term time and may be fined if holidays are taken without the school's consent. If you are thinking about taking your child out of school for a family holiday, you must notify me in writing. Please note that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, such requests will not be authorised, and this could lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued.

A fixed penalty notice works similarly to a parking ticket, where the costs escalate if not paid promptly. The fine is £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid within 28 days. The Local Authority decides when to issue fines, but under national rules, all schools must consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within a three-year period, the fine increases to £160. To avoid this, I urge families to book holidays during school breaks only.

Vaping

Finally, I've spoken to a couple of parents recently about 'vaping'. I want to remind all parents that vapes are banned in school. Vaping poses serious health risks to young people, as it can harm lung development and lead to nicotine addiction. Many vaping products contain high levels of nicotine or other unknown chemicals, which can impact concentration, memory, and overall well-being. Additionally, the long-term effects of vaping are still not fully understood, but early studies suggest potential links to respiratory issues. Additionally, it is illegal for individuals under the age of 18 to vape in the UK. This includes the use, possession, and purchase of vaping products. The law aims to protect minors from the potential health risks of vaping underage and to prevent the start of nicotine use at a young age.

For these reasons, vapes should not be brought into school and will be confiscated if seen.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,
Claire Coy





Date: Friday 7th February 2025

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KS3 Academic Review Meetings

Dear Parent / Carer,

The vast majority of our Key Stage 3 students and parents/carers will be meeting with their Academic Mentors during their allocated appointment time on either Thursday 13th February or Thursday 27th February 2025.

Appointment letters have been sent to all of our Key Stage 3 parents/carers via email.

Please check your inbox if you are not aware of your appointment time and date.

Yours faithfully,

Samantha Wells
Assistant Principal – Assessment Data and Interventions

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Appeal for Assistance with GCSE Language Exams

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the GCSE examination period, we are reaching out to our school community for support. We are looking for parents or guardians who are fluent in Portuguese, Urdu, Persian (Farsi and Dari), or Cantonese and who would be willing to assist us in conducting some GCSE speaking exams.

No prior experience is necessary, as full training will be provided. The training session will last approximately one hour, and the exams themselves will take less than an hour to complete. As a token of our appreciation, volunteers will receive a voucher for a local supermarket.

To ensure fairness in the examination process, we kindly ask that volunteers are not relatives or close friends of any student currently in Year 11 who will be sitting a GCSE in the relevant language this year.

If you are able to assist us or would like more information, please contact Sarah Gallagher, Head of Languages, at sarah.gallagher@lowryacademy.org.uk

Your support would be greatly valued, and we sincerely appreciate any help you can offer to ensure the success of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S. Gallagher
MFL – Subject Leader

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Year 9 DTP Immunisations

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have been asked by the Salford 0-19 Immunisations Team to share the following information with families regarding the immunisations for Year 9 students on 10th February 2025.



3-in-1 Teenage Booster (DTP) and Meningitis ACWY are usually offered to children in Yr 9 approx. age 13-14. The teenage booster, also known as the 3-in-1 or the Td/IPV vaccine, is given to boost protection against 3 separate diseases: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio. The MenACWY vaccine protects against 4 strains of the meningococcal bacteria – A, C, W and Y – which cause meningitis and blood poisoning (septicaemia).

The 0-19 Immunisations team alongside the school Nurses are working in partnership with your child's school to deliver these high school age vaccinations. These vaccinations are not routinely offered at GP practices. All Immunisations are extremely important and ensure that your child is protected later in life, the DTP and MenACWY vaccinations are given alongside each other and will be offered to your child, in school by nurses.

If your child is not immunised during this session, please be assured that they will be seen at the catch up session.

We would ask parents / carers to ensure that students are wearing a short-sleeved T-shirt underneath their school shirts if possible, or to wear a short-sleeved shirt.

Should you have any questions about the School Age Immunisation Program please contact us via the email address above and we will endeavour to respond to you within 48 hours.

Yours faithfully,

Salford 0-19 Immunisations Team

Imms.team5-19@nca.nhs.uk

0161 206 8821

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Lost Property

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have several unclaimed items in our Lost Property area. These items will be placed outside The Forum on Wednesday and Thursday next week for students to check.

Any items that remain unclaimed will be donated to a local charity.

Yours faithfully,

The Lowry Academy

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Options for School Leavers with SEND

Dear Parent / Carer,

Salford Information Advice and Support Services (SIASS) have asked us to share the following information with families regarding education and training after GCSE's for school leavers with SEND:

SIASS and the Skills and Work Team will be hosting another session for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (including those with and without EHCPs) who are interested in exploring what options are available when they leave Year 11. This session is ideal for those Year 9 and above, and also those who may have left school already but want to see what other options are available.

The sessions will go through all the different available courses across Salford and just beyond, with an emphasis on those options for those with SEND. There will be a presentation and then an opportunity to ask questions. SIASS can explain any procedures or processes, whereas the Skills and Work Team will provide course specific information.

This is an ideal time, particularly for those who are in Year 11 or Year 13 with EHCPs, who should be having their statutory Annual Reviews with a view to transition but is open to **ALL** young people with SEND. The session is being run **ONLINE** on **Thursday 13th February, 9.30am-11am**, on **Microsoft Teams**. If you want to attend you must book on by e-mailing SIASS@salford.gov.uk. Please ensure you provide:

Child's full name;
Date of birth;
Parent's name;
Telephone and e-mail address;
School setting;
Whether or not they have an EHCP;
Brief description of their SEND.

(Without this your booking will not be confirmed).

There will also be an **IN-PERSON** session on **Thursday 13th February, 6pm-7pm**, at **Swinton Gateway** (100 Chorley Road, Swinton, M27 6BP). Bookings are not required, just turn up. Young people are also free to attend as well.





EDUCATION AND TRAINING AFTER GCSE'S

Information session to learn more about the options available to young people after year 11.

You can join us **online** by emailing:
SIASS@salford.gov.uk
Date: Thursday 13 February
Time: 9.30am to 11am

Alternatively, you are welcomed to join us **in person**:
Date: Thursday 13th February
Time: 6pm to 7pm
Location: Swinton Gateway, 100 Chorley Road, Swinton M27 6BP



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Annual Review Training for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent / Carer,

Salford Information Advice and Support Services (SIASS) have asked us to inform parents about their annual review training for parents. Please see the details below:

SIASS are holding annual review training for parents and carers. This training session will be held online via **Microsoft Teams** on **Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 6-8pm**, and again at **8-10pm**.

This online training will go over the statutory processes around Annual Reviews of the EHCP. This is for any parent or carer who has a child or young person with an EHCP, or is going through the EHCP process. This is useful because if your child has an EHC plan, your local authority has a legal duty to review and amend the plan when your child moves between particular stages of education. The deadlines for when your child's EHC plan must be reviewed and amended are:

- **31 March** for those moving from secondary school to a post-16 institution
- **15 February** for all other phases of transfer.

Please choose your time: 6pm-8pm, or 8pm-10pm. You only need to attend one session as they are the same.

You will receive a link closer to the time once your booking is confirmed.

Please double check that your details are correct when completing the form. **Please use the form below to book:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/1AqbMZYMKY>

You can also scan the QR code on the right to book on.

Yours faithfully,



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February Half-Term Activities

Dear Parent / Carer,

Salford Community Leisure have asked us to share the following leaflets with families regarding free activities during half-term:

Salford Community Leisure ForHousing

Play Streets Is back!

Free activities for children and young people
including sports, arts and crafts, games and much more.
All participants get a free packed lunch!

When?
Wednesday 19th February
1pm-3pm

Where?
Wharton and Cleggs Lane Church
Cleggs Lane, Little Hulton M38 9RW

Who's it for?
Children aged 5 - 11 years

Places are limited so please book in advance by:
Scanning the QR Code (opposite)
call Chloe/Alex on 07746645349
<https://eequ.org/book/7271>

All children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult

Salford Community Leisure ForHousing

Play Streets Is back!

Free activities for children and young people
including sports, arts and crafts, games and much more.
All participants get a free packed lunch!

When?
Friday 21st February
10am-12pm

Where?
The Den, Unit 20 & 21 Lower Ground Floor
Victoria Street, Walkden M28 3AD

Who's it for?
Children aged 5 - 11 years

Places are limited so please book in advance by:
Scanning the QR Code (opposite)
call Chloe/Alex on 07746645349 or follow link
<https://eequ.org/book/3214>

All children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult

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Diary dates

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 10th February 2025	Year 9	DTP/MenACWY immunisation catch ups
Thursday 13th February 2025	Years 7 – 9	Academic Review Meetings
Friday 14th February 2025	All Families	Students finish for half-term
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025 Half-Term Holiday		
Monday 24th February 2025	All Families	Students return to school for normal registration
Thursday 27th February 2025	Years 7 - 9	Academic Review Meetings
Thursday 6th March 2025	All Families	World Book Day
Tuesday 26th March 2025	All Families	Enrichment Day
Thursday 27th March 2025	Year 11	Parents Evening

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