

28 August 2024

Dear Families,

We look forward to welcoming our students back into school from 4th September and hope you all had a restful Summer break. You will also receive our September Ready booklet attached to this email. Please read this before term starts, it contains everything you need to know about our school. Please see below for the dates that each year group will return to school:

Thursday 5th September – 8:25 am – **Year 10**

Thursday 5th September – 10:00 am – **Year 9**

Thursday 5th September – 11:40 am – **Year 8**

This is a reminder that unless otherwise stated, children are expected to be in morning lineups by 8:25 am each day.

The importance of a good start

Research shows that students who start the academic year with good attendance will likely maintain it for the entire year. In contrast, students who have periods of absence early on in the academic year will likely miss an increasing number of lessons. It is vital that students start the year by embedding the excellent habits that they will need to be successful. Students who have good attendance (above 97%) at The Lowry Academy significantly academically outperform other students nationally due to the excellent teaching and support on offer. Simply put, if they are not here, they will miss out.

Last academic year, we introduced the 'Lowry Line'. This policy requires students to be in full uniform when entering the school building, to wear their blazers at all times in the corridors, and to proceed directly to their lessons. Failure to follow these simple instructions will result in a same-day lunchtime detention.

This year, as we have more students than ever before, it is crucial that we maintain our calm and orderly corridors. Students are expected to walk on the left and, where possible, follow their badges. Students will receive more information on this in the first days of the year, but put simply; it means students should turn left when exiting a classroom.

I know many parents are very familiar with our high uniform standards, but as a reminder, the Academy Uniform Policy states 'shoes only'. We are strict about this. Trainers are not allowed to be worn as part of the uniform. Please refer to the school website for acceptable and non-acceptable examples. Students are expected to arrive at school wearing or carrying blazers and are expected to put their blazers on before entering the school building.

This year, we are asking students to come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days. Students must wear their blazers over their PE kit and can bring in their uniform to change into after their lesson if they wish.

Students must not return to school with any of the following:

- False eyelashes (please arrange to remove these before they return to school).

Principal Mrs C Coy

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- False nails (please arrange to remove these before they return to school). Coloured nail varnish is also not permitted.
- Piercings other than a small stud in the ear. Other facial piercings are not permitted.
- Unnatural hair colours (please arrange to resolve this before their return to school).
- Fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. Many contain ingredients which are not helpful to learning. Students should only bring water into school. We suggest all students have a refillable water bottle, which can be refilled at one of our water fountains. Fizzy drinks will be confiscated and placed in the bin.

All students must be equipped for lessons. They are expected to have a pencil case with two black pens, two green pens, two pencils, and a ruler for every class. If a student loses or forgets their equipment, they can purchase replacements at the start of each school day. All students are expected to have a school bag with enough room to hold their equipment, schoolbooks, revision guides, and any kit when needed. Handbags are not permitted. Examples can be found in the 'September Ready Booklet'.

Mobile phones will not be allowed at any point during the school day—this is non-negotiable. They must be switched off before a student enters school. Any mobile phone seen or heard will be confiscated and must be collected by an adult. This includes phones visible in the shirt or front of blazer pockets.

Homework and Independent Learning

Homework is vital to ensuring success. Our homework policy is grounded in reviewing the knowledge students have learnt in their lessons, which makes it more likely that this knowledge will be retained in their long-term memory. It also supports revision for assessments and enables students to develop valuable skills in personal organisation. Students who regularly complete homework to a high standard make more progress than students who don't.

Year Group	Homework	Set	Due	Homework Catch-Up Sessions
Year 7, 8 & 9	Sparx English, Maths & Science	Weekly on Friday	Friday following set date by 4pm	Years 7 & 9 Tuesday (3pm)
	Spanish (Languagenut), History & Geography (Seneca)	Fortnightly on Friday		Year 8 Wednesday (3pm)
Y10	Sparx English, Maths & Science	Weekly on Friday	Friday following set date by 4pm	Wednesday 3pm
	Options Subjects	Fortnightly on Friday	Friday following set date by 4pm	
Y11	Sparx English, Maths & Science	Weekly on Wednesday	Wednesday following set date by 4pm	Thursday or Friday (Lunchtime)

	Options Subjects	Fortnightly on Wednesday	Wednesday following set date by 4pm	
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Recognition and rewards

We have changed how we recognise and reward students for meeting our values. We have implemented an approach that will allow us to build a culture of excellence with our students centred around a dual approach of recognition and reward. September will see the introduction of The Lowry Academy Book of Excellence, a pocket-sized booklet that will symbolise house points in a physical format. Students will progress through bronze, silver, and gold booklets and beyond to recognise their daily achievements and boost their motivation to succeed. This is an opportunity to promote autonomy, purpose and mastery whilst increasing student motivation to act independently and feel that their efforts matter. Students will be rewarded for their efforts at each completed stage of the booklet. We will continue to recognise our students' efforts in other ways, such as through student commendations, awards assemblies, and our weekly Celebration Station. These daily acts of recognition will feed into a broader reward system.

Pastoral Structure

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who will be the main point of call for all Behaviour, Welfare and Attendance issues. Below is who you should contact if you have any concerns about your child:

- Year 7 – Mr Scally
- Year 8 – Mrs Hodgkinson
- Year 9 – Mr Ashton
- Year 10 – Mrs Tough
- Year 11 – Mr Travis

Mr Johnson has been appointed as Assistant Principal.

Mrs Griffith has been appointed as Vice Principal.

The partnership between school and home is vital in ensuring your child's future success, so we would appreciate your support. We will update you on your child's progress at each step via phone calls from staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Pastoral Team if you have any questions or would like any more information about the above.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Fletcher
Senior Vice Principal

Principal Mrs C Coy

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