



The Lowry Academy
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Weekly Parent Communications



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Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year 2025–26 at The Lowry Academy. I hope you and your children have had a restful summer and are excited for the year ahead.

A special welcome goes to our new Year 7 families. It has been a pleasure to see our Year 7 students settle into school life this week. They are beginning to find their way around confidently, and I have enjoyed speaking with many of them about their lessons and, of course, their first experiences of lunch in the school canteen! I know that parents often have many questions at this stage of the year, so please don't hesitate to contact Mr Travis or Mrs Smith, who will be more than happy to help.

As always, we will continue to keep you updated with one main communication each Friday, which gathers together all the key messages from across the school. We do this to avoid sending multiple emails during the week and to make sure you have everything you need in one place.

We are also still celebrating the fantastic achievements of last year's Year 11 students, who achieved the best GCSE results the school has ever received. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination. Our new Year 11 cohort has started the year with a fantastic attitude, and during their welcome back assembly, they were reminded of the importance of their final year. Period 6 lessons will begin next week, and attendance is expected from all students. This is a strategy that has supported our students very successfully in previous years, and we are confident it will continue to do so.

In this week's mailing, I would like to draw your attention to two important items:

- PSHE Letter – This is sent each year as a statutory requirement and enables parents to make an informed decision regarding certain aspects of the PSHE curriculum.
- Biometrics Letter – We use a biometric system for school lunches, which is quick, easy, and reliable (after all, you can never lose your finger unlike a card!). An information sheet is included to explain how the system works. It has been in place for a number of years and, if you have not yet given consent, I would encourage you to give this serious consideration.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to working with you and your children over the year ahead.

Warm regards,
Claire Coy





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PSHE at The Lowry Academy

Dear Families,

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at the Lowry Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives our young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

From Easter 2021 the Department for Education made Relationships Sex Education and Health Education compulsory in all schools. We send this letter every academic year to remind our parents of this and ask any new parents of Year 7 students to read our policy and contact us with any queries you may have on this.

The guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, it will allow young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and will help them take responsibility for their own well-being. All sessions will be age-appropriate and meet the needs of all students in the class.

This guidance forms part of our school's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body.

For more detail about the PSHE curriculum offer, please visit the school's website. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for students to ask questions to further their understanding and to find out more about what affects them personally.

To remind and introduce new parents to this policy and to ensure everyone is informed, we would like you to review the policy and the statutory content of the relationships and sex education programme. The policy also contains important information for parents who may wish to withdraw their children from these classes. Please visit the school's website to review our PSHE offer [PSHE | Curriculum | The Lowry Academy](#) We would like you to review the policy and the statutory content of the relationships and sex education programme. [The Lowry Academy - Relationship and Sex Education Policy - 2024-1.pdf](#)

As a school community, we are committed to working with parents. If you would like to find out more, please or make any comments or provide feedback on this policy, please contact the PSHE Co-ordinator, Miss Miller-Allen (ask.lowry@lowryacademy.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Jones
Assistant Principal – Personal Development

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Reminder of School Uniform Expectations

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope your child has had a positive start to the new school year.

As a reminder, our uniform is a key part of our school culture, helping to promote a sense of identity, professionalism, and belonging. We are proud of our uniform and appreciate your continued support in maintaining high standards.

This term, we've introduced a small change to help increase consistency and foster a stronger sense of belonging among students.

If your child chooses to wear a skirt, we kindly ask that parents support our preference for tights rather than socks. Tights help create a more unified and smart appearance, which supports all students in feeling equally part of our school community. They are also a warmer option as we move into the colder months. Please remember that students also have the option to wear trousers.

Uniform Expectations (Years 7–11)

- **Blazer:** The Lowry Academy blazer must be worn at all times unless permission is given to remove it.
- **Jumper:** Optional but strongly encouraged during colder months.
- **Trousers/Skirt:** Plain black trousers or The Lowry Academy pleated skirt.
 - Skirts must show three visible stripes beneath the jumper line.
 - Tights should be plain black and a minimum of 60 denier.
- **Shirt:** Plain white shirt with a top button, tucked in at all times.
- **Tie:** Full-length Lowry Academy tie in year group colour:
 - Year 7 – Silver
 - Year 8 – Yellow
 - Year 9 – Green
 - Year 10 – Blue
 - Year 11 – Purple
- **Shoes:** Plain black, polishable shoes. Trainers, canvas shoes, and boots are not permitted.
- **Outerwear:** Appropriate coat or jacket may be worn outside. Hoodies are not permitted.

Equipment Expectations

All students must bring the following items each day:

- Pencil case
- 2 black pens
- 2 green pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Mastery Book (Years 7–9)
- School bag (large enough to carry A4 books)

Failure to bring the correct equipment will result in a sanction, and students will be expected to borrow the necessary items at the start of the day.

Appearance Expectations

- Hair must be of a natural colour. Extreme hairstyles, including shaved patterns in hair or eyebrows, are not permitted.
- Jewellery is limited to one pair of stud earrings and a wristwatch. No rings, facial piercings, or other jewellery are allowed.
- Makeup must be minimal and natural. False eyelashes and false nails are not permitted.

Where to Buy and Find More Information

Full details of our uniform can be found here:

[School Uniform & Equipment | Parents | The Lowry Academy](#)

Our official school uniform supplier is:

Whittaker's Schoolwear

123–125 Chorley Road, Swinton
M27 4AA

Whittaker's stock the full range of Lowry Academy uniform and PE kit and are happy to support with fittings and orders in-store.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty in sourcing uniform or equipment, please contact us in confidence so we can support you.

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to a successful year ahead with all students dressed for success and ready to learn.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola Griffith
Vice Principal – Pastoral

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Working Together to Support Attendance and Wellbeing

Dear Families,

We're pleased to share that our school is partnering with Global Policing to enhance the support we offer to families around school attendance.

Global Policing is made up of experienced professionals with backgrounds in safeguarding and family support. Their role is to work alongside our school team to help children attend school regularly and get the best possible start in life.

This partnership is about adding capacity to our existing support systems. While the team includes former police officers (as the name suggests), they are no longer in policing roles. Instead, they bring valuable skills and experience that can help us work with families in a positive and constructive way.

Global Policing may get in touch with you if your child's attendance drops below expected levels, if they are often late, or if there are unexplained absences. Their approach will always be supportive, non-judgmental, and solution focused.

As an independent organisation, they may be able to offer help in ways that complement what the school can provide. The Global Policing Attendance Officer will be considered part of our wider school team and is working for school. Ultimately, our shared goal is to help every child thrive.

Regular attendance is key to this, and we believe that by working together, with families and Global Policing, we can make a real difference.

Yours faithfully,

Leanne Earle
Assistant Principal – Attendance

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Fingerprint Biometrics at The Lowry Academy

Dear Families,

As part of our efforts to make accessing the school canteen quicker and easier for students, we use a biometric system that allows them to pay using their fingerprint. This is a secure and convenient alternative to remembering a 4-digit PIN.

If you haven't yet provided consent for your child to use their fingerprint, we kindly encourage you to do so, the consent form is attached.

It helps speed up queues and reduces the chance of forgotten PINs. If you've already given consent, there's no need to do anything further. For those who do not provide consent, your child will be issued a 4-digit PIN next week so they can still access the canteen and top up their account.

On the next two pages, you'll find:

- A breakdown of how the biometric system works
- The advantages of using fingerprint access
- Details about data security and privacy
- A copy of the consent form if you haven't already submitted one

Thank you for your support in helping us improve the lunchtime experience for all students.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Passey
Cluster Operations Manager

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Fingerprint biometrics is available at The Lowry Academy

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing efficient and secure services, we would like to remind families that fingerprint recognition technology is currently in use at The Lowry Academy to facilitate a fast and straightforward payment experience for school meals. This biometric system converts the unique patterns of a student's fingerprint into a secure digital code. Please be assured that the fingerprint itself is never stored, retained, or shared with any third parties.

It is important to us that everyone in our school community—including parents, guardians, and students—is fully informed about the fingerprint recognition system currently in use at The Lowry Academy. While most families have already provided consent, this information is intended to support new parents and those who may wish to review or update their decision.

Why The Lowry Academy uses fingerprint biometrics

The school continuously strives to improve students' school experience. Students with consent to use fingerprint biometrics can eliminate the need to remember their **Canteen PIN** and benefit from a simple and safe authentication process when using the canteen services. Fingerprint biometrics works in the same way as other recognition technology. Like a PIN, a unique identifier is attributed to each student and matched for a quick and secure authorisation process.

How it works

- **Consent:** Students must opt-in to use fingerprint recognition before a fingerprint scan is taken. The biometric fingerprint scanner converts the lines on a student finger into a unique code. The fingerprint itself is not retained, stored, or distributed to third parties.
- **Capture:** During checkout, students place their fingers on the fingerprint scanner. In seconds, the system reads distinctive fingerprint features and processes them through an algorithm, which turns the fingerprint into a unique string of characters, serving as the students' unique identifier. This unique identifier is stored on a secure, encrypted database within the school and is used to verify students' accounts at the checkout.
- **Authentication:** The student's unique identifier securely matches the live fingerprint to their cashless account, and the transaction can now occur.

Advantages of using fingerprint biometrics in schools

Fingerprint recognition is a straightforward way to recognise students without risking losing dinner cards or forgetting passwords. Fingerprint biometrics offers a straightforward and quick way to identify and authenticate students speeding up the canteen service at both lunch and breaktimes.

On average, it takes just seconds for a student to place their fingerprint on the biometric scanner and then the system to identify their account, offering a fast and efficient authentication process.

Security of fingerprint biometrics

Biometrics, in this case, provides a unique identifier for the person present. The unique identifier is created by processing the biometric capture through a mathematical algorithm, generating a unique number. Only this number is stored; the captured fingerprint is not retained. This data is encrypted using AES 256 (similar to encryption used by your online banking) and cannot be reversed to produce an image of the biometric, ensuring the highest level of security and compliance.

How do I get started?

Like all biometric recognition methods, fingerprint recognition requires consent. If you have already provided consent, no further action is required. However, if you are new to the school or would now like your child to use the fingerprint recognition system, please complete and return the consent form below to the school office.

FAQs

What are biometrics?

Biometrics is a technology that recognises people based on their unique characteristics and identifies possible matches to ensure accurate and secure identification. Fingerprint biometrics identifies individuals based on the individual pattern of ridges and valleys on their fingerprints and is used to provide accurate and reliable identification.

Can any other agency or 3rd party use the finger impressions?

No, the information is never shared, and the numbers representing the fingerprints are meaningless to anyone else. The software turns your child's finger impression into a mathematical algorithm and discards it, and the stored information cannot be used to recreate the finger impression.

What happens when my child leaves the school?

All biometric data can be deleted; the school is the data controller and can delete the data from its databases. You can opt out anytime, meaning the school will delete the biometric data.

What if I object to my child using fingerprint biometrics?

Parents and students reserve the right to object to using fingerprint recognition. Any student wishing to opt-out will be issued an alternative identification method, 4 digit PIN number to remember and enter at the till.

Fingerprint Biometrics Opt-In Form

I consent to The Lowry Academy including my child in the fingerprint biometric registration process.

Name of Student: _____

Year: _____

Form: _____

Name of guardian or parent: _____

Signed _____

Please fill out this form and return it to the School Office.

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Spirit of Little Hulton Festival – Peel Park 6-7 September

A free community festival is taking place this weekend at Peel Park, open 12pm–4pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Activities include live music, sports, games, a fun fair, food and drink, performances, art, a fashion show, kite flying, and a bike track.

The Lowry Academy will have a community stall — come and say hello if you're attending!



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