

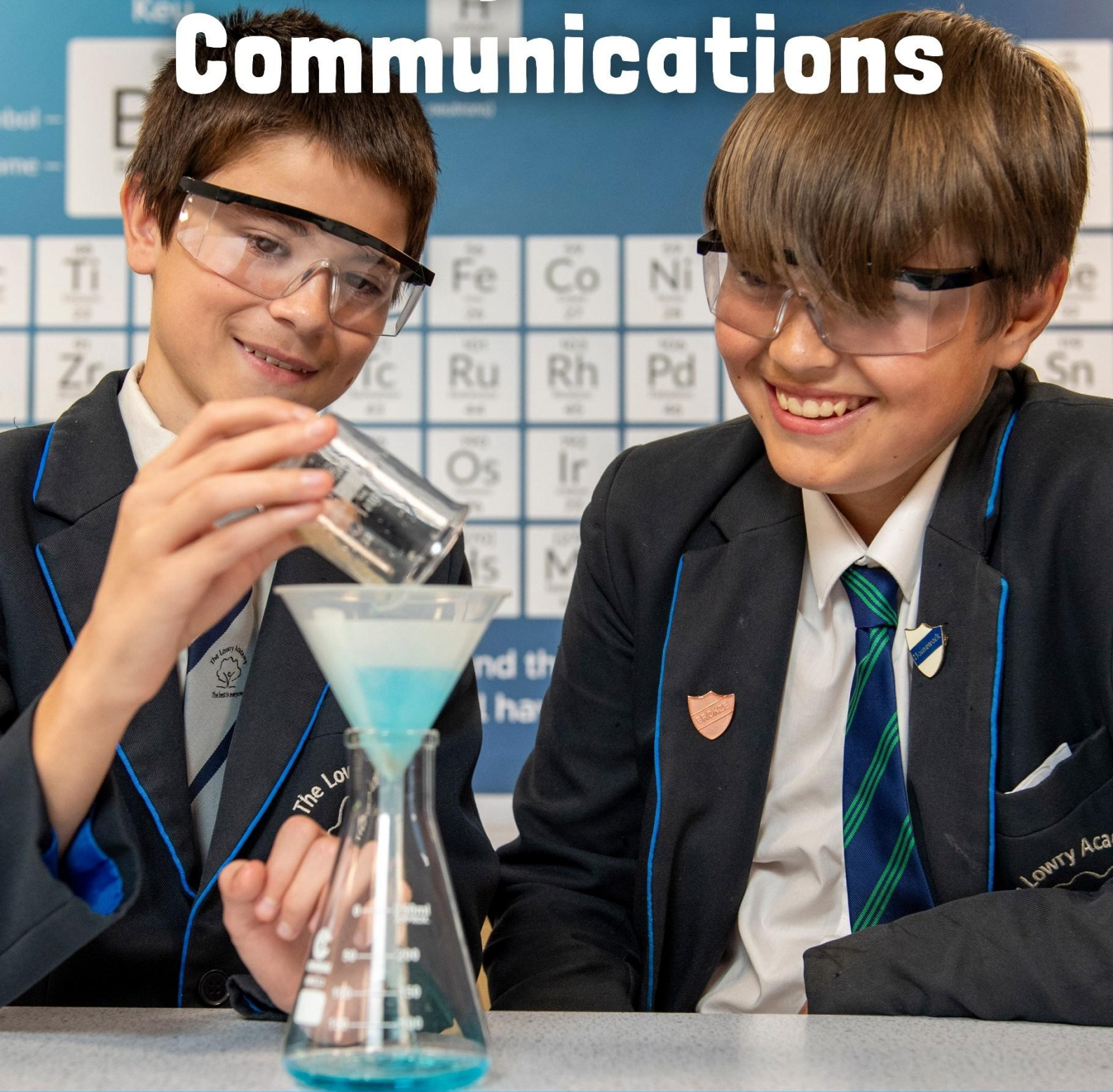


The Lowry Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Weekly Parent Communications



Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience



Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

It's been a really productive first week back after the half-term break. As we settle into the second half of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for the positive start – students have returned with great energy and focus.

As the clocks have now changed and the days are much darker, I'd like to remind everyone about the importance of cycle safety. We've noticed that a number of students are cycling to and from school without lights on their bikes. Please ensure your child's bike is fitted with working lights and reflectors, and that they are wearing visible clothing. We've included some cycle safety tips in this week's Communication – please take a few minutes to read through them together if your child cycles to school. Much of this will be familiar, but it's so important that bikes are fit for winter weather to help keep our students safe.

Today marked the start of Year 11 mock exams, with whole cohort exams (English, Maths and Science) taking place next week. I know our Year 11s will be spending time revising over the weekend – we wish them all the very best of luck. These assessments are a vital part of preparing for the summer exams and will help us identify where additional support or intervention may be needed. Please do encourage your child to give these their very best effort.

A quick reminder that our pre-loved uniform shop is always open for donations and access. With the colder weather setting in, we'd particularly welcome any coats, hats, gloves, or trainers that still have some life left in them. If you would like to donate or need to make use of the shop, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

A huge congratulations to Sienna in Year 9, who has been selected as this week's winner of United Learning's Salford Cluster "Character Caught" initiative – chosen from over 3,000 students! Sienna was nominated for her fantastic contribution as a member of the Year 9 Student Leadership Team and for always being ready to help others. A truly well-deserved recognition.

Also included in this week's Communication is a flyer about Free School Meal eligibility. A recent review by Salford City Council found that many households may meet the criteria but haven't yet applied. Please do take a look and apply if you think you might be eligible.

Finally, next week we will be holding our Remembrance Day service in school. Students have been selling poppies throughout the week, and we are looking forward to coming together as a community to mark this important occasion.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Claire Coy





Content List

Date: Friday 7th November 2025

School Information	Year Group relevant to	Page Number
KS3 Mid Year Assessments	Years 7 - 9	4
Mobile Phone Pouch Rollout	Year 8	5-6
School Photographs Ready	Year 7 & Year 8	7
Free School Meals – Important Information	All Families	8
Quality of Education	All Families	9
Education with Character	All Families	10-12
Cycling Safety Guide	All Families	13
Dates for your Diary	All Families	14
		Page Number
Local and Community Information	Year Group relevant to	
Free English Classes	All Families	15-16

Supporting your child for their KS3 Mid Year Assessments

This year all students in years 7, 8 and 9 will be expected to sit mid-year assessments in English, Maths and Science.

We have created a revision booklet to help students plan and complete their revision for these assessments over a six week period. The booklet contains a six week breakdown of revision topics for English, Maths and Science, as well as blank weekly revision planners. You can find further information about your child's mid-year assessments and revision booklet via the Arbor Parent App and an electronic copy of the revision booklet can be found here: www.lowryacademy.org.uk/students/mid-year-assessments

We have been training students to use three revision techniques:

- ✓ Self-Quizzing (Look, Cover, Write, Check)
- ✓ Flashcards
- ✓ Cornell Notes

We refer to these techniques as 'The Lowry Way'. Please encourage your child to use these techniques when revising (reminder explanations for each technique are included in the revision booklet).

Encouraging your child to start their revision now is good practice as it helps your child to embed core knowledge into their long-term memory.

Their mid-year assessments will take place in lesson time during the following weeks after the Christmas break:

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

Thank you for your support.

[Back to Contents](#)

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

[Back to Contents](#)

School Photographs

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Year 7 and Year 8 school photographs are now online and ready to view and order. Please note, that the order deadline for free deliver to school is Wednesday 19 November 2025. After this date, parents will be required to pay for home delivery.

GOOD NEWS!



Your child's official
school photographs
are now online!

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

[VIEW AND ORDER](#)

(this link will direct you to www.bentleypics.com where you will be required to enter the access codes from the unique ticket your child was given on the day of the photo shoot.)

[Back to Contents](#)

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Salford City Council

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

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)

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.

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.

Quality of Education

Curriculum Spotlight – Science

Science helps students make sense of the world around them – from the forces that move objects to the chemical reactions that power our daily lives. By studying science, students learn to ask questions, test ideas, and think critically about evidence. These skills aren't just useful in the lab – they're essential for solving problems in everyday life and in future careers.

Our curriculum is designed to help students develop curiosity, build scientific literacy, and understand how science connects to real-world issues like health, the environment, and technology. Whether exploring energy transfers, bonding, or biological systems, students are building a foundation that supports future study and informed citizenship.

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

Year 7: Fundamentals of Physics

Students explore how forces act and interact, using free-body diagrams to analyse motion and shape changes. They learn to measure distance and force, investigate balanced and unbalanced forces, and develop enquiry skills through experiments. The term ends with energy stores and transfers.

Year 8: The Periodic Table

Students study elements, compounds, and mixtures, conservation of mass, and atomic structure from Dalton's model to the modern one. They explore how the Periodic Table organises elements and investigate Groups 1 and 7 and their reactivity.

Year 9 – Electricity and Magnetism

Students learn how current behaves in circuits and apply Ohm's Law. They then explore magnetism, build electromagnets, and study their real-world uses.

Year 10 – Organisation / Bonding

Biology: How the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory systems work together and how lifestyle choices affect health. In plants, students study transport and photosynthesis.

Chemistry: How structure and bonding determine material properties, and how this knowledge helps design new technologies.

Year 11 – Revision for Mock 1

Students review Biology (B1–B4), Chemistry (C1–C5), and Physics (P1–P4). Focus areas include exam skills, retrieval practice, and applying knowledge to new contexts.

How you can Support at Home

- Check Sparx Homework: Ensure your child completes their Sparx Science homework each week. The platform adapts tasks to individual needs, helping to close knowledge gaps.
- Homework is released every Friday at 4 pm and is due:
 - **Thursday 8 am** for Year 11
 - **Friday 4 pm** for all other year groups
- Talk About Science: Ask your child what they've been learning – whether it's about circuits, forces, or atoms. Linking science to everyday life (like cooking, driving, or using a phone) helps make learning meaningful.
- Encourage Curiosity: Watch documentaries, explore science news, or try simple experiments at home to build enthusiasm for the subject.

Fun Science Challenge – Ask your Child!

Year 7: Force in Action

Try dropping two different-sized objects (like a tennis ball and a crumpled paper ball) from the same height. Which one hits the ground first – and why? Can you explain the result using what you know about forces and air resistance?

Year 8: Periodic Table Detective

Look around your home for five everyday items that contain elements from the periodic table (check product labels or research online). Can you identify which elements or compounds are in them and what properties make them useful?

Year 9: Electromagnet Builder

Using a battery, some wire, and an iron nail (with adult supervision), try making a simple electromagnet. How many paperclips can it pick up? Can you make it stronger? Experiment by changing the number of wire coils or the battery strength.

Year 10: Systems Under Stress

Design a simple investigation plan (no need to carry it out) to test how exercise affects heart rate or temperature affects plant transpiration. What would your hypothesis, variables, and method be? Think like a scientist – how would you ensure your results are reliable and reproducible?

Year 11: Revision

Pick one topic from B1–B4, C1–C5, or P1–P4 that you find tricky. Create a Cornell notes or flash cards to teach it to someone at home. Explaining a topic clearly to someone else is one of the most powerful ways to revise!

Education With Character

Education with Character: The Lowry Way

Living The Lowry Way: Education with Character at Its Heart

At the core of our approach to personal development is a commitment to education with character—an ethos that goes beyond academic success to nurture the values, attitudes, and behaviours that shape principled, compassionate, and resilient individuals. “Living The Lowry Way” is our shared commitment to this vision.

Chosen by our students, our values are not just spoken—they are lived. They guide our actions, inform our decisions, and strengthen our relationships every day.

Here’s a reminder of our school values and what they mean to us;

- **Aspiration:** We aim high and strive for excellence. We set goals, work hard, and believe in our potential.
- **Confidence:** We believe in ourselves and act with integrity. We speak up, take risks, and trust our voice.
- **Creativity:** We think differently and embrace new ideas. We explore, imagine, and create solutions.
- **Resilience:** We keep going, even when it’s tough. We bounce back, learn from setbacks, and grow stronger.
- **Respect:** We treat others with kindness and dignity. We listen, care, and contribute positively to our community.

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

Thank you for being part of our character journey.

[Back to Contents](#)

Education with Character

Celebrating success this week!

Well done to our top 20 students who have the most house points this so far, and a special congratulations to Year 7 who are still leading the way with this! 1,000 house points needed to get your Bronze Award!

Student	Year	Points	Points to Bronze Award
Deeva NT	9	1703	Attained
Adedayo O	7	1579	Attained
Milia NN	7	1538	Attained
Emma O	9	1383	Attained
Hannah I	9	1373	Attained
Hameedah H	7	1273	Attained
Jetemi B	7	1240	Attained
Freya Elise S	7	1238	Attained
Georgie R	8	1230	Attained
Sienna A	7	1205	Attained
Glory A	9	1131	Attained
Kaylee P	7	1129	Attained
Emily D	8	1103	Attained
Dara W-E	7	1076	Attained
Hannah F	7	1063	Attained
Nana BA	8	1047	Attained
Erick Fernando R	8	997	3
Pearl E	11	977	23
Jessica N	8	969	31
Ava W	7	968	32



Points Update

House Points:

Pankhurst
94,672

Kingsley
94,617

Delaney
95,541

Turing
92,531

Total points this year = 377,361

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

Our 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.

Upcoming House Events...



10 House Points per event attended!

Cycle Safety for Students: Riding To and From School

Cycling is a great way to stay active and independent, but safety is essential - especially during winter and darker months. This guide offers practical tips for students and parents to help ensure safe journeys to and from school.



Before You Ride

- **Check Your Bike:** Ensure brakes, tyres, reflectors, lights, and bell are all in good working order.
- **Wear a Helmet:** Always wear a properly fitted helmet.
- **Dress for Safety:** Wear bright or reflective clothing. Avoid loose items that could get caught in the chain.
- **Plan Your Route:** Use quieter roads or cycle paths where possible. Check local council websites or apps for safe routes.



Weather & Visibility

- **Use Lights:** White light at the front and red at the rear are required by law after dark or in poor visibility. Add reflectors and wear reflective accessories.
- **Be Seen:** High visibility clothing helps drivers spot you, even in daylight.
- **Wet & Icy Conditions:** Reduce tyre pressure slightly for grip, avoid harsh braking, and stick to main roads where ice clears faster.
- **Low Sun & Fog:** Use sunglasses or a peaked cap to reduce glare. Stay alert and listen for traffic.



While You Ride

- **Keep Both Hands on the Handlebars:** Never carry items in your hands while riding.
- **Secure Your Belongings:** Use a bike basket or pannier rack to carry school bags or other items safely.
- **Be Predictable:** Signal clearly, obey traffic signs, and make eye contact with drivers.
- **Ride Safely:** Stay in a visible position on the road. Avoid weaving between parked cars and keep a safe distance from large vehicles.
- **Avoid Distractions:** No phones or headphones - stay focused on your surroundings.

Above all, if you're not happy riding because of the conditions, remember you can always get off and walk!

Advice for Parents

- **Teach Road Awareness:** Encourage children to stop and look both ways before crossing roads or driveways.
- **Training Opportunities:** Consider enrolling your child in a bike safety course
<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/find-cycle-training/> for practical road safety skills.

Useful Resources

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. It helps participants learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the confidence to cycle and enjoy this skill for life.
www.bikeability.org.uk

School Grounds: Students should dismount and walk their bikes to the cycle racks to avoid accidents.

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

[Back to Contents](#)

Free English Assessments at The Lowry Academy

What?

Find out your current English level and secure your place in our upcoming **FREE English courses**.

Where?

The Lowry Academy, Hilton Lane, Little Hulton, M28 0SY.

When?

Various dates in **November**:

- Saturday **8th November**, 11:15 – 13:15
- Saturday **15th November**, 11:15 – 13:15
- Monday **17th November**, 18:00 – 20:00
- Saturday **22nd November**, 11:15 – 13:15
- Saturday **29th November**, 11:15 – 13:15

Who?

Parents, carers and adult family members who want to find out their current English level and improve their skills.

How to enrol & book your assessment:

Places are limited — book yours today!

 **Call or Text:** 07922 671325

 **Email:** speakandbelongcic@gmail.com

[Back to Contents](#)

FREE ENGLISH *Assessment*

📞 07922 671325 ✉️ speakandbelongcic@gmail.com

08
NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

11:15 AM – 13:15 PM

15
NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

11:15 AM – 13:15 PM

17
NOVEMBER

MONDAY

11:15 AM – 13:15 PM

22
NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

11:15 AM – 13:15 PM

29
NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

11:15 AM – 13:15 PM