



Central Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

DMA/LFA

11th September, 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week, we had the best four days in school since I joined the school back in 2020. The engagements and quality in lessons was excellent. Our Year 7s and 12s are settling in well, with the school the largest it has ever been exceeding 1,100 students.

On Wednesday, I held our first live broadcast for the year. If you were unable to join us for the event you can find the recording and resources on our website [HERE](#).

Below I have provided you with a brief update on some key areas and reminders on some upcoming events:

Homework:

One of our big priorities this year is homework. This was a big feature in our live broadcast and reintegration with students. We are very lucky as a school to have so many high quality homework resources at our disposal and this year we are reinforcing our expectations by introducing a detention system alongside our very popular rewards system. Our homework will go live later this week and students will record this in their planner. Our homework tab on our website will be updated for this term no later than Wednesday, this will include our timetable, policy and various help guides. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

SEND Update:

We have been absolutely delighted with the start made by our SEND students this week. SEND attendance has been very high this week and students are already benefitting from an all-new SEND Base, SEND computer facilities and larger learning support team than we have ever had. Please look out for your invite to our SEND Coffee Mornings which will be taking place for specific parents and families this year. A huge thank you to all of the families for your continued support. We expect that such a strong start to the year is going to propel our SEND students to achieving great things this year.

Uniform:

Uniform standards for the vast majority of our students are excellent, however, please do still check that your son/daughter's uniform is correct and that they bring a bag to school with their planner, knowledge organiser and a black pen. You can find our uniform expectations on our website [HERE](#).

Central Academy

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Year 11:

As you are aware, we have many partners in this process with 'Elevate Education', 'MyTutor' and 'askOLA' at the forefront of our offer. In particular, this year we are working with 'Elevate Education' who provide support for both students and parents alike. With this in mind, we would like to remind you of the invite we sent to you in July to our 'Year 11 Information Evening' on **Thursday 21st September, 2023**.

During the evening, we would like to invite you to the Academy to join with us in some food and refreshments from our fantastic catering team before listening to our presentation and more importantly, our main guest speakers, 'Elevate Education' on how we can best support the students in Year 11 this academic year.

During the evening, there will be more information from us as a school on topics such as exams, prom and leavers hoodies. Key staff will also be on hand to discuss and support your needs throughout the evening.

The doors will open at 4:30 pm with food and refreshments served from 5:00 pm and our presentations beginning at approximately 5:30 pm. Our main guest speakers will be presenting from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Sixth Form:

We are really proud of the number of Year 11s who have gained a place in our Sixth Form and made such a positive start. It has been a very busy week with lots of new information but the students have settled well on their new study programmes. A reminder that we are holding our Y12 Welcome Evening on **Thursday 21st September, 4.30 – 5.30 pm**. The evening is for parents but students are also welcome to attend. In addition, all Year 12 will be attending the UK University Apprenticeship Fair at Old Trafford on **Wednesday 27th September**, more information to follow.

Year 13 continue to impress with their attitude to learning and their wider contribution to our community. All students have returned with enthusiasm for their learning and we look forward to a successful year ahead.

A reminder to all parents that the Sixth Form dress code is smart office wear. Where a young person is struggling to finance the correct attire, they should see one of the Sixth Form leaders who will organise support from school.

The Sixth Form team are looking forward to Sports Day this week and the Sixth Form students' participation and help in organising and supporting our younger students. The Sixth Formers will be helping raise funds for Marie Curie by offering face painting on the day.

Safeguarding:

The safeguarding of our children, families and community continue to be a priority for all staff at Central Academy. Please be aware that any concerns raised by the students, or regarding the students, will always be followed up to ensure their safety and wellbeing. At times, this may require support, advice and guidance from external partners such as the Police or Children's Services. The Academy safeguarding policy is available on the website which outlines our statutory duty in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 legislation. Students will be made aware of the pathways of reporting safeguarding issues in school regularly over the year and parents can contact the Safeguarding Team if they wish to discuss a safeguarding issue.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. (www.nspcc.org.uk)

Attendance:

We have an approach at school which reinforces good attendance, highlighting the links between attendance and attainment - if students are not in school, they cannot learn. Our ambition is to work towards 100% attendance at school for every student irrespective of their starting point, so it is crucial that every student tries to improve their attendance, whatever the starting point, therefore it is vitally important that we work in partnership with you as parents/carers and so we seek your full support in ensuring that your child attends the Academy every day and on time. We are always pleased to work together with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties but we are also committed to improving attendance levels at Central Academy.

There are a number of important steps that you can take to ensure your child maintains a high level of attendance:

Ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn. Line-up is at 8.25 am and all students from Years 7-13 require to be onsite by 8.25 am.

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full potential and of course it is also vital to help form good habits for later life.

- Arriving just 5 minutes late every day equals 3 days of education over the whole year.
- Arriving half an hour late every day is equivalent to 18 days absence over a whole school year.

Students arriving late to school will be followed up through our graduated approach to lates, if your child arrives late to school you will receive a text informing you of this, the same day their tutor will have a conversation with them to find out why they were late and to support them not to be late again. Should the student be late again in the same week, your child's tutor will contact you by email or telephone and discuss these lates to school – again this is working with you to break down any barriers and support your child to attending on time. Your child will also be placed on tutor late report for two weeks. At the end of the period, we would hope that there have been no further lates and again your child's tutor will contact you to share this positive news. However, if your child, has again been late within these two weeks they will then go on late report to their Year Team Manager/Head of Year.

Ensure the Academy has up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers. We will contact you by text, email or by telephone if your child is absent and you have not contacted the Academy. This ensures

that truancy is quickly identified. If your contact details have changed over the summer, please contact us with your new details in order that we can update our records.

If your child is ill, contact the Academy, please make sure you telephone the Academy every day your child is absent. The Attendance telephone number is 01228 822070. Our year teams will still contact you on the day/s your child is absent to not only know when they will be well enough to return but if they require any additional support on their return to school.

If you wish to check that your child has arrived at the Academy please contact the Academy Attendance Office. They will inform you if your child has been registered.

If no contact is received regarding the absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately the Academy is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence will be authorised. You will be asked to provide medical evidence if your child has a poor attendance record.

- Ensure that medical appointments are made outside of Academy time.
- Avoid trivial absence such as, 'buying new shoes'. This would not be accepted as a reasonable absence.
- Holidays should not be taken in Academy time. Holidays will not be authorised during term time.
- Respond to Academy texts/emails or telephone calls regarding attendance and punctuality.
- Contact your child's Head of Year/Year Team Manager if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into the Academy and we will work together to break down those barriers to non-attendance.

Catering:

I am aware there are several concerns around our new catering provider, Taylor Shaw. Please be reassured that I am addressing these concerns directly with the provider and the Trust to ensure that our food/prices are in line with previous years. I look forward to writing to you shortly with an update.

Sports Day:

This Friday we have our rescheduled sports day for all students. This will take place at the Sheepmount Stadium between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm and parents are more than welcome to come and watch. Students should attend school in their PE kit and a packed lunch. Students who are pupil premium will have a packed lunch prepared by the school. It is also recommended that students bring a waterproof jacket just in case of any showers. At the moment, we are still aiming to run the day, however if the weather forecast doesn't improve we will make a decision no later than Wednesday evening.

Finally, our first school newsletter will be published on Friday 22nd September with some of the exam celebrations from the summer, summer school and the first few weeks. A reminder this Thursday is our Open Evening 4:00 – 7:00 pm for any younger siblings who are transitioning from primary to secondary.

As always, thank you for your support.

Kind regards



Mr Markham
Principal