



DMA/LFA

11th July, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As I said in my newsletter this week I am writing to all parents to outline what the September return looks like including any changes that are expected for the year ahead.

Year Team Structures

Moving into next academic year I wanted to remind you of our year team structure so you know who to contact for the new year. In addition to this you can find our Senior Leadership Team structure via our school website:

KS3 Team	
Director of Key Stage 3	Ms Cregan
Year Team Manager (Yr7)	Mrs Sheridan
Year Team Manager (Yr8)	Mrs Whyte
Year Team Manager (Yr9)	Mrs Forster

KS4 Team	
Director of Key Stage 4	Mr Barratt
Year Team Manager (Yr10)	Mrs Best
Year Team Manager (Yr11)	Mr Carr
Assistant Principal (Outcomes)	Mrs Fay

KS5 Team	
Director of Key Stage 5	Mr Hamilton
Year Team Manager (Yr12)	Miss Snape
Year Team Manager (Yr13)	Mr Cookson
Vice Principal (Quality of Education)	Mrs Stott

We also have a full staff list via our school website [HERE](#). This will be updated over the summer break to reflect our new tutor groups for 2025/2026.

Lunchtime Changes

As you know, this half term we have been trialling a single lunch. This trial has worked very well and has made a significant difference to the experience that students have at lunchtime. Therefore, we have made the decision to continue with this in September. Currently students have 40 minutes for lunch which provides plenty of time with the number of students we currently have in school. However, as of September the school will be bigger and we have made a decision to increase this by

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a further five minutes, to ensure all students have plenty of time to get their lunch, but also have the opportunity to attend one of our Co-curricular Clubs that we are now able to offer during lunchtime. During the first half term of the academic year, we will extend our lunch for Year 7 students to ensure that they get used to our queuing system as we do each year.

School Day 25/26

As we move permanently to a single lunch we have made some adjustments to the school day to allow us to continue developing the experience of students we have here at Central. We will remain with our 100 minute lessons with tutor time at the start and at the end of the day. We have made some adjustments to our reading programme and this will be part of our main curriculum offer rather than feature in our tutor time. In order to ensure that we meet current DfE guidance and to reflect the changes to lunchtime the school day will finish at 3:05 pm. Below I have outlined the new timings of the school day:

All Years	
Activity	Time of Day
Tutor Time	08:25 – 08:40
Lesson 1	08:40 – 10.20
Break	10:20 – 10.40
Lesson 2	10:40 – 12.20
Lunch	12:20 – 13:05
Lesson 3	13:05 – 14:45
Tutor Time	14:45 – 15.05
P4 (Year 11 only)	14:45 – 15:45 (except Fridays)

You will also notice that one of the changes we have made to the school day is that our Year 11 students will have an extended school day which is part of their main curriculum offer. We have already communicated this change with all Year 11 parents and will become part of our main offer year on year.

Term Dates 25/26

You can find our up-to-date term dates via our new website [HERE](#). This also includes any Bank Holidays and INSET days that are taking place throughout the academic year. We will shortly be publishing our term dates for the academic year of 2026/2027 to ensure that our families have plenty of time to plan ahead on your calendars.

Attendance and Holidays

This academic year we have seen some great improvements in our attendance. However, this still remains one of our main priority areas as we move into next academic year. Based on our data, we know that students who attend 95% or more on average will achieve a grade 5 or better at GCSE. Whereas students who have attendance below 80%, have an average of grade 2. This obviously makes a significant difference to our students' next steps and we want to ensure that we can support all children to achieve their full potential. Next academic year, we will continue developing our attendance strategy to ensure that all students are able to meet our attendance target of 96%.

Uniform & Equipment

Over the last four months, we have made reference to some of our uniform changes from September 2025. The main change is that we are a **trouser only** school, based on our consultation that we run last academic year. We have communicated this with students over the last few weeks and months alongside our regular updates in our school newsletters. You can find all uniform updates on our school website [HERE](#). I am also pleased that we have our items now stocked in the Carlisle Uniform Shop alongside our online provider. We also have a very active uniform swap shop so if you would like to swap uniform items please contact our uniform e-mail uniform@rrca.org.uk and we will do what we can to support you. Finally, a number of students do attend school without a school bag and next year we are developing our homework offer further which will incorporate some paper based homework. Therefore, it is vital that students have their own school bag and equipment so they are ready to learn, this will be a key part of their uniform expectations. As a school we provide the majority of the equipment for students, however, the minimum expectations for students will be a pen, pencil and a ruler. All of the other items will be provided through our curriculum areas.

PE Kit

Next academic year we have been asked to take part in a PE kit pilot to see what impact it has on anxiety and participation in PE. Those of you that have primary children will know that PE at primary school does not involve changing with our primary children going to school in their PE kit. This is the change that we will be making next academic year. On the day your child has their PE lesson, they will be expected to attend school in their PE kit as outlined in our uniform booklet. It is important that their standards in PE kit are as high as their standards with their main uniform and we will have our boot room open to be able to support any students with this. This will mean that students will not be getting changed for PE before or after the lesson. We are really excited to be part of this pilot and hope it not only increases the amount of time we have in PE lessons but also improves participation. We will be reviewing this pilot term by term and I look forward to sharing with you the impact it has on our PE curriculum.

Safeguarding Messaging

Over the summer the school will be closed with staff having limited contact via e-mail therefore, below I have outlined what support you have available to ensure you and your family are safe for the summer break.

Cumberland Family Hubs:

<https://cumberlandfamilyhubs.org.uk/homepage>

Cumberland County Council Free School Meals and Uniform vouchers:

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities>

Cumberland HAF activities:

<https://cumberlandfamilyhubs.org.uk/childrens-learning-and-development/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme>

Carlisle Carers:

<https://carlisle-eden-carers.org.uk/>

Barnardos Mental health Support:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/north-cumbria-mental-health-support-team>

CAMHS Support:

<https://www.cntw.nhs.uk/services/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-service-east/>

Barnardos Link:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/cumbria-link-young-peoples-social-prescribing-service>

CSCP Safeguarding Hub:

<https://cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/cumbria-safeguarding-children-partnership>

The Academy will re-open on **Monday 1st September**. Students will return **from Wednesday 3rd September** with Years 7, 11 & 6th form joining us on day one. This will be followed by the rest of the school on **Thursday 4th September**. As always, on the first day of school we will have our reintegration meeting with students to outline the year ahead.

As always thank you for your support this academic year. I will write to you over the summer break with some highlights from our GCSE & A-level results alongside these key reminders regarding the return to school.

Kind regards,



Mr Markham
Principal