



Central Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

DMA/LFA

13th July, 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to thank you for the continued support you have shown Central Academy. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important and plays a significant role in ensuring our students are successful both academically and personally.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a number of important changes and reminders ahead of September, alongside information regarding the end of this academic year.

Attendance

Improving attendance has remained one of our highest priorities this year and I am delighted that, together, we have increased whole-school attendance by 0.8% compared to last year. This is something our whole school community should be proud of.

Attendance has a direct impact on achievement. Last summer's GCSE outcomes clearly demonstrated this:

- Students with 95%+ attendance achieved an average grade of 5.
- Students with below 80% attendance achieved an average grade of 2.

The message is clear—every day really does count.

Next year we will continue our ambition of improving attendance by a further 1%. Our Attendance Team will continue to work closely with families to offer support wherever it is needed, so please do contact us if there are any barriers preventing your child from attending regularly.

I would also like to remind parents that, in line with our Attendance Policy and national guidance, term-time holidays will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

Behaviour

Over the final five weeks of this term, we have successfully trialled our revised behaviour system.

The updated 'Prompt – Warn – Remove' approach has provided greater consistency across the Academy and has been supported by significant investment in our Independent Learning Room (ILR) to ensure students continue learning if they are removed from lessons.

A further improvement has been the introduction of additional time at the end of the school day to complete restorative conversations. I am delighted to report that this has resulted in 100% of

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t 01228 822060

Attendance Line 01228 822070

e info@rrca.org.uk

www.rrca.org.uk

restorative conversations being completed before students leave school, allowing every day to end positively and ensuring students begin the following day with a fresh start.

From September we will introduce one further addition to our behaviour systems. Students who arrive not ready to learn may receive a detention. This includes examples such as:

- Incorrect uniform
- Not bringing the correct equipment
- Not bringing a school bag

Students will receive full training during our September reintegration programme and we will explain the system during our whole-school broadcast.

Mobile Phones

As outlined in my recent letter, our approach to mobile phones continues to reflect the latest Department for Education guidance.

Our simple approach remains:

See it • Hear it • Take it

However, from September, all confiscated mobile phones must be collected by a parent or carer from Main Reception. In September, we will share information on how you can request to collect your child's confiscated phone.

This change strengthens our existing policy while continuing to promote positive learning habits and reducing unnecessary distractions during the school day.

Uniform

The Government has recently introduced changes to national school uniform guidance. I am pleased to confirm that Central Academy's uniform already complies fully with the updated DfE expectations.

Our Uniform Policy therefore remains unchanged.

A reminder of our compulsory branded uniform items:

- Academy blazer
- Academy tie
- PE top
- PE hoodie

Please also note:

- We are a trousers-only school; leggings are not part of the school uniform.
- Leggings may continue to be worn for PE lessons only.



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Following a successful trial this year, students should continue to attend school wearing their PE kit on PE days, which has reduced lost learning time and improved participation. For more information you can find our full Uniform Policy on the Academy website.

Equipment

Being ready to learn starts with arriving at school properly equipped every day.

Every student should bring:

- Black pen
- Green pen
- Purple pen
- Pencil
- Scientific calculator
- 30cm ruler
- Eraser
- Drywipe pen
- Suitable school bag

Students will also receive:

- An Academy Student Handbook
- A Knowledge Organiser

These resources are designed to support learning both in school and at home.

To help families, we have sourced complete equipment packs at a significantly reduced price. These can be purchased through ParentPay.

- Equipment Pack including calculator with basic functions - £12.50
- Equipment Pack including scientific calculator - £25.00

The School Day

The overall length of the school day remains unchanged. However, following consultation and review, we have made several small adjustments to improve the flow of the day.

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Time	Activity
08:25 – 08:55	Tutor Time (P0)
09:00 – 10:40	Lesson 1
10:40 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:40	Lesson 2
12:40 – 13:20	Lunch
13:20 – 15:00	Lesson 3
15:00	Home time – Years 7 & 9
15:05	Home time – Years 8, 10 & Sixth Form
15:10	Year 11 Lesson 4 begins
15:10 – 15:55	Year 11 Lesson 4
15:55	Year 11 Home Time

The additional lesson for Year 11 provides valuable curriculum time as students prepare for their GCSE examinations.

Key Staffing Changes

We are pleased to share the following pastoral structure for September.

Year Group	Year Team Manager / Head of Year	Senior Leader
Year 7	Mrs Sheridan	Mrs Rigg
Year 8	Mr Carr	Miss Kyle
Year 9	Mrs Whyte	Miss Crowe
Year 10	Mrs Forster	Mr Barratt
Year 11	Mrs Best	Mrs Stott
Sixth Form	Miss Snape & Mr Cookson	Mr Hamilton



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We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Lown to the Academy as Assistant Principal for Inclusion and SEND, where she will lead our continued work to ensure every student receives the support they need to flourish.

September Return to School

Our September return will be as follows:

- **Tuesday 1 September** – INSET Day (school closed to students)
- **Wednesday 2 September** – Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form only
- **Thursday 3 September** – All students return

Following the publication of examination results in August, we will write again with any final arrangements for the new academic year.

We will also host a live Parent Information Broadcast at 6 pm on Thursday 3rd September, where I will outline our priorities for the year ahead and answer frequently asked questions. A link will be available on the Academy website closer to the date.

Safeguarding During the Summer

Although school will be closed over the summer holidays, safeguarding remains our highest priority.

Please find below details of organisations that can provide advice or support should you need them during the break:-

- If you have a serious safeguarding concern about a child that is in an emergency situation, please call the Police immediately on 999.
- If you have a concern that requires non-emergency Police response, please call 101 to request support.
- If you have a serious concern about a child or young person that requires immediate attention, please call the Cumberland Children Advice & Support Service (CCASS) on 0333 240 1727
- Family Hub Support [Homepage](#) | [Cumberland Family Hubs](#)
- Social media information and advice services: [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)
- Mental Health Support: [Need a helping hand? We've got you.](#) | [Barnardo's](#)

Finally, I would like to thank every parent and carer for your continued support throughout the year. Together we have continued to improve attendance, strengthen behaviour, raise expectations and create a calm and purposeful learning environment where students can thrive.

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On behalf of all the staff at Central Academy, I wish you and your family a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

The Academy will close to students at **12:15 pm on Friday 17 July**.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Mr Markham', written in a cursive style.

Mr Markham
Principal