



Central Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

DMA/LFA

24th August, 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break and have been able to spend some valuable time with family and friends. As we prepare to begin another exciting academic year, I would like to warmly welcome everyone back to Central Academy.

I would also like to officially welcome our new Year 7 students and their families to Central Academy. It was fantastic to see so many of our new students take part in our summer school, which was a great success. The enthusiasm, confidence and positive attitude shown throughout the programme were brilliant to see, and I hope they have helped our new students feel excited and ready to begin their journey with us in September. We are delighted to have you as part of the Central Academy community and look forward to seeing everything you will achieve over the coming years.

We begin the new academic year following an outstanding summer for our students, with fantastic results at both GCSE and A Level which I am sure you have seen in our local and national media outlets.

The achievements of our Year 11 and Sixth Form students have been exceptional and are the result of years of hard work, ambition and resilience from our young people, alongside the commitment of our staff and the support of families.

Our results this summer have placed Central Academy amongst the highest-performing schools in the county, something of which our whole school community should be incredibly proud.

Behind every result is an individual student, and it has been particularly rewarding to see so many of our young people secure the grades they needed to progress to their chosen Sixth Form, college, university, apprenticeship or employment destination.

These results demonstrate what our students can achieve when they attend regularly, work hard, take advantage of the opportunities available to them and have high expectations of themselves.

I would like to congratulate every student who received results this summer and thank our staff and families for everything they have done to support them. Their success provides a fantastic platform as we begin 2026/27 and sets the standard for what we know our students are capable of achieving.

At Central Academy, our first priority remains ensuring that every student feels safe, secure and ready to excel. We know that when students feel supported, valued and challenged, they are able to thrive – academically, socially and personally.

Central Academy

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Returning to School

A reminder that students will return to the Academy as follows:

- Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7, Year 11 and Sixth Form students
- Thursday 3rd September – All students

Having a staggered start allows us to spend valuable time with our new Year 7 students as they settle into life at Central Academy, while also ensuring that Year 11 and Sixth Form students have a focused and purposeful start to these important stages of their education.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

Before the summer break, I wrote to parents and carers outlining some of the key expectations and changes for the new academic year, please see link below.

[Letter from Principal - September 2026 13.07.26.pdf](#)

I would encourage all families to revisit this information before students return, particularly the changes relating to mobile phones, equipment and attendance. Below I have provided some key reminders from the letter:

Mobile Phones

As previously communicated, our approach to mobile phones continues to be clear: “See it, hear it, take it and collect it.”

From September, where a mobile phone is confiscated in line with our policy, it will need to be collected by a parent or carer from Main Reception. Students should therefore ensure that phones are switched off and stored away throughout the school day.

We know that reducing the distraction caused by mobile phones supports learning, improves social interaction and helps us maintain a calm and purposeful school environment. I would like to thank parents and carers in advance for supporting us with this.

Equipment – Ready to Learn

Every student needs to arrive at school fully equipped and ready to learn every day.

Having the correct equipment may seem like a small thing, but it makes a significant difference. It allows lessons to begin promptly, reduces lost learning time and helps students develop the organisation and independence they will need throughout their education and beyond.

Please take some time before September to check that your child has all of the equipment detailed in our school expectations. If you wish to purchase the equipment pack through school, these can be purchased through ParentPay. Further information will also be included within our new 2026/27 Parent Handbook.

Attendance – Every Minute, Every Lesson, Every Day

Excellent attendance will remain one of our highest priorities during 2026/27, particularly in light of the strengthened national expectations and Government guidance around school attendance.

The message is simple: every day in school matters.

The exceptional outcomes achieved by our students this summer reinforce the strong link between excellent attendance, hard work and achievement. Even relatively small amounts of absence can quickly add up to significant amounts of lost learning.

We therefore ask parents and carers to work closely with us to ensure students attend school every day unless there is a genuine reason why they cannot do so.

Our aim is not simply to improve an attendance figure. Regular attendance gives students the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve, develop friendships, access enrichment and fulfil their potential.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make the most of every minute, every lesson, every day.

Parent Online Broadcast & 2026/27 Parent Handbook

Our first Parent Online Broadcast of the new academic year will take place on **Thursday 3rd September, 2026 at 6 pm.**

During the broadcast, we will talk through our priorities and expectations for the year ahead and officially launch our new 2026/27 Parent Handbook.

The handbook will bring together the key information families need throughout the year, including attendance, behaviour, uniform, equipment, mobile phones, communication, safeguarding and the wider opportunities available to students.

Further details, including how to access the broadcast, will be shared with parents and carers via email on the first day back.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer break and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Mr Markham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Markham
Principal