

# Autumn Bulletin- Secondary



## Message from the Principal

### Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that everyone has had a restful summer. I am delighted to be able to write to you in my first letter of the new academic year. Last year was a successful one for our secondary students here at the Academy as they settled back into attending full-time and resuming their learning. All of our students were focussed and determined to work hard to ensure their learning continued at pace.

### Welcome to our new students

We are delighted that once again we are oversubscribed in our Year 7 cohort with many of these allocations being first preference choices. We have another 160 children joining us in our Year 7 cohort, with many still on our waiting list. This is our most successful secondary cohort and demonstrates the growth in popularity of the Academy over the past few years as we have gone from just 34 children on the first day in September 2015 to full capacity from September 2022.

Thank you to those Year 11 students who attended our Summer School to concentrate on their learning as they approach their final year of study here at the Academy. They will be undertaking their GCSE examinations in 2023, the first experienced by the Academy so it is vitally important that they remain focussed on their studies in this important year.



Exceptional Education at the Heart of the Community

# Information

## Term Dates

Please see below a list of Term Dates for the Academic Year 2022-2023. Please note these can be subject to change and a further 2 INSET dates need to be added and will be communicated to parents and put onto the website calendar once known.

<b>INSET Days</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Training Days - students do not attend
<b>Meetings for Year 7</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 7 students Parents' Meetings</b>
<b>Start of Term for Year 7</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Welcome to Year 7 Students</b>
<b>Start of Term Year 11</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Welcome back to Year 11 students</b>
<b>Start of Term Years 8, 9 &amp; 10</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Welcome back to Years 8, 9 &amp; 10 students</b>
<b>INSET Day</b>	14/10/2022	Students do no attend
<b>October half term holiday</b>	24/10/2022 - 28/10/2022	
<b>Half Term 2 Begins</b>	31/10/2022 - 16/12/2022	
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	19/12/2022 - 02/01/2023	
<b>Half Term 3 Begins</b>	03/01/2023 - 10/02/2023	
<b>February half term holiday</b>	13/02/2023 - 17/02/2023	
<b>Half Term 4 Begins</b>	20/02/2023 - 31/03/2023	
<b>Easter holiday</b>	03/04/2023 - 14/04/2023	
<b>Half Term 5 Begins</b>	17/04/2023 - 26/05/2023	Bank holiday on 1.5.23
<b>Spring half term holiday</b>	29/05/2023 - 02/06/2023	
<b>Half Term 6 Begins</b>	05/06/2023 - 21/07/2023	
<b>INSET Day</b>	23/06/2023	Students do not Attend

## Arrangements for the start of the new Academic Year

### Year 7 Students

Year 7 students should attend the Academy on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at their agreed meeting time along with their parents. At this meeting we will go through our Home School Agreement so that both students and parents are clear of the expectation of them as they move into the secondary phase of their education, they will then return home with parents.

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September Year 7 students should attend from 8:20am and this will be a day of induction to the Academy.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September they will experience working with 'Fix Up Crew' where they will take part in team building exercises and setting their future aspirations.

### Year 11 Students

Year 11 students should return to the Academy on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at the usual time of 8:20am. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September they will take part in sessions with 'Fix up Crew' in order to focus their aspirations and preparing them for their GCSEs in the coming year.

### Years 8, 9, 10 Students

Years 8, 9 & 10 students should all return on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at their normal time of 8:20am, this will be a day of induction for all in these year groups.

# Further information

## Attendance

The improvement in attendance this coming academic year will once again be a key strategic priority, our Academy target is to be at **97% or above**. Last year as an Academy, Secondary attendance was **92%**. This is 3% lower than where we want to be as an Academy.

To help the Academy achieve its aim for excellent attendance for all please can parents and families pay attention to the following guidelines:

- ❖ Ensure that you follow the Academy's process for notifying us of your child's absence from the as soon as possible (on the first day).
- ❖ Make all appointments for Doctors or Dentists outside of the Academy day unless they are an emergency.
- ❖ As an Academy, **we will not authorise any term time leave and you may receive a fixed penalty fine from the Local Authority**. Last year we lost **1000** days of learning due to unauthorised holidays. If you have to take your child out of the Academy you should discuss the reasons with the attendance officer as soon as possible.
- ❖ It will take the support of our whole Academy to achieve our attendance target this year and it is important we work together throughout the year.

Remember that your child only gets one chance at school and their future may be adversely affected by not attending.

Being on time is vital. Arriving late the Academy causes unnecessary disruption for your child, other students and their teacher. If you are finding it difficult to ensure that your child attends school regularly please speak to either Mrs Bellamy or your child's Pastoral Manager so they can support.

### Being late reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

### Make every minute count

## Uniform

All of our secondary students **must attend** in the correct Academy uniform and ensure that they have the correct clothing for their PE lessons.

Uniform should consist of the following items:

**Trousers:** should be black tailored school trousers. These should not be tight fitting, leggings, have buckles, zip pockets and should not be jeans.

**Skirts:** Should be black and at least below the knee in length, these should not be tight fitting.

**Shirts:** Should be white collared, button through.

**Jumpers:** These are optional but must be grey and have the Academy logo on.

**Blazers:** Are mandatory and must be black and have the Academy logo on.

**Ties:** Are mandatory and must be the Academy tie.

**Shoes:** Must be all black, should not have any logos on and should not be trainers.

## PE Kit

PE kit is mandatory for all students and should be brought to every lesson. Students who do not bring their kit will receive a sanction. This should consist of:

### Academy Top with logo

### Academy shorts

# Notices

## Parents' Evenings

At the start of the term, we like to inform you of our parent evenings so that you can prioritise them in your diary. We believe that communication is key to educational success and these evenings are an important part of that and we can ensure together that your child achieves their potential.

Dates are as follows:

<b>Year 11</b>	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Year 9</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Year 10</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Year 8</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
<b>Year 7</b>	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July

## Class Charts

The Academy uses a system called Class Charts to track student behaviour and record attainment. Parents will be able to monitor how their child is doing whilst in the Academy. Further details and a log in will be sent shortly.



## My Child At School (MCAS)

The Academy tries were possible to operate using a cashless payment system called MCAS which you can access using an app available from your phone, computer or iPad. Details of how this works and a unique log in for you to use will be sent shortly.



## Cars and car parking

We continue to receive communication from parents about the concerns around the car park at the top of the Olympic Legacy Park, this is not Academy property however, we recognise that many of our parents currently use this at the start and end of the day. If you are using the car park, please ensure that you are careful as there are very young children walking through with parents to the Academy. We would ask that you please be considerate of other users at all times.

## Bikes

We would actively encourage your child to either walk or ride their bike to the Academy but please can parents ensure that they wear a helmet and have lights (especially as the darker nights will begin to draw nearer) for their own health and safety. Students bringing bikes need to ensure that they lock up their property using our bicycle racks as an Academy we cannot take responsibility for them as they are brought on to the site at the owners own risk.

The start of the new academic year is always an exciting time as we get to meet all of our new students and staff and welcome back those who have been with us for a while now. It is with great anticipation and promise that we look forward to what the year will hold for us here at Oasis Academy Don Valley.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Academy events over the year. Please follow us on our website, twitter and Facebook for the most up-to-date Academy news.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pape'.

Mr J Pape, Principal  
Oasis Academy Don Valley

Contact us on:

**T:** 0114 2200400  
**E:** [info@oasisdonvalley.org](mailto:info@oasisdonvalley.org)

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