



21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had an enjoyable and restful summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to the Academy on **Wednesday 3rd September (Years 7 and 11)** and **Thursday 5th September (all other year groups)**.

Over the summer, staff have been working hard to build on the progress we made last year. We have focused on improving our site, refining our systems and processes and continuing to raise the quality of teaching, learning, and launch a new rewards policy. Our ambition remains clear: to ensure every student has the best possible opportunities to succeed, both academically and personally.

This letter brings together all of the **key information** you will need for a smooth and successful start to the academic year in September. I know it is a long and detailed letter, but I felt it was important to place everything in one document for clarity.

Inside, you will find information on:

1. Uniform
2. Ready to Learn packs
3. Behaviour systems update – “our lines in the sand”
4. Attendance
5. Safeguarding update
6. Pastoral staffing

## **1. Uniform**

Thanks to your support, we saw huge improvements in uniform standards last year. Uniform is not simply about appearance, it builds pride, identity, and self-confidence, and contributes directly to a focused learning environment.

Our uniform expectations for **2025–26** are attached again with this letter and were shared before the end of the academic year. Please note our key change: all students must wear **formal school shoes**. Trainers or trainer-style footwear are not permitted.

We know that when students wear their uniform with pride, they also approach their learning with pride.

## **2. Ready to Learn packs**

Last year’s Ready to Learn packs proved a great success in ensuring every student was fully equipped for learning. Teachers saw a clear improvement in lesson focus and productivity, as students could settle quickly without the disruption of missing equipment.

This year, we are refining the system further:

- Packs will now be stored in each classroom, not carried around by students.
- Students will collect equipment at the start of each lesson and return it at the end.

This approach will:

- Increase learning time at the start of lessons.
- Reduce the amount of lost equipment.
- Ease financial pressure on families.
- Ensure every student has what they need, every lesson.

Parents will no longer need to purchase or monitor Ready to Learn packs at home, giving you one less thing to worry about while ensuring students remain fully prepared.

### 3. Behaviour systems update – “our lines in the sand”

We are proud to be a “warm strict” school: we believe high expectations, applied with consistency and care, are the foundation of success.

Over the past year, we have carefully reviewed our behaviour systems. At present, sanctions focus mainly on breaktime detentions and full-day isolations, with little in between. While full isolation remains a necessary sanction for serious behaviour, we want to ensure there is a fairer, more balanced ladder of consequences, one that encourages reflection without unnecessarily removing students from a whole day of learning.

From September we are introducing **lunchtime and after-school detentions** as part of a more consistent, layered behaviour strategy.

- After-school detentions will run Monday–Thursday, with at least 24 hours’ notice to allow parents and carers time to make transport arrangements. This is the responsibility of the parents/ carer.
- If a student cannot attend, they will be placed in full-day isolation instead. Our strong preference is to avoid this wherever possible so students remain in lessons, however we need your support with this.

We know after-school detentions have not always been easy to implement in the past, but we are determined to make them successful this year because of the long-term benefits for students.

Here’s why they matter:

- They provide a meaningful consequence without removing students from a full day of learning.
- They create space for reflection and accountability, giving students the chance to reset and move forward positively.
- They contribute to calmer lessons, stronger relationships, and higher outcomes for every child.
- They allow students and staff time to conduct restorative conversations and build positive relationships.

Research shows schools that embed after-school detentions as part of a wider strategy see improved conduct, better academic progress, and stronger student wellbeing. In many ways, this also prepares young people for adult life, where accountability and responsibility are essential.



We ask for your full support with this. When parents and school stand together, we create a consistent, fair environment where every child can thrive. Please take time to review our updated **"Line in the Sand" document** (attached), which outlines behaviours and sanctions clearly for all families.

#### 4. Attendance

**"Good attendance = positive outcomes."**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Doughty as our new Attendance and Admissions Officer, working alongside Miss Bartrum from the senior leadership team.

Please remember:

- Medical appointments should be arranged outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is unavoidable, please provide evidence so we can authorise the absence.
- If your child is absent, you must contact us by **8:30am** on the day with a clear reason:
  - **Email:** ICS-Attendance@attrust.org.uk
  - **Phone:** 01366 728333
  - **Text:** 07860054431

Strong attendance is one of the biggest factors in student success, and we are committed to working closely with you to ensure every child attends daily.

#### 5. Safeguarding update

We are pleased to confirm that Mrs Walker will continue as Assistant Safeguarding Lead (ASL), working closely with Mr Cooper (DSL). Together, they will provide timely support and interventions for students from our dedicated Safeguarding Hub.

Students and parents can access safeguarding support during the school day or via:  
Email: ICS-Safeguarding@attrust.org.uk

#### 6. Pastoral Team

We have made some staffing adjustments to strengthen our pastoral provision. I am confident these changes will further support our students' wellbeing, behaviour, and progress.

##### Key Stage 4 Team

- SLT: **Ms Staniforth** – will oversee KS4 with a strong focus on attainment, progress, and exam outcomes, ensuring our students are fully prepared for GCSE success. She will work closely with the pastoral team.
- Head Of Year (HOY) 10 & 11: Ms Agoudjil
- Student Support Officer's (SSO's): Mrs Connor & Mrs Thomas

##### Key Stage 3 Team

- SLT: Mr Morris
- HOY 9: Mr Morris (Acting) | SSO: Ms Valentyna
- HOY 8: Mr McAllister | SSO: Mr Spurgeon
- HOY 7 & Transition: Mrs Thompson | SSO: Ms Hobbs



Your child's tutor remains the first point of contact for any pastoral concerns. For subject-specific matters, please contact the class teacher or Head of Department (details available on our website). For general queries, the main office remains available, though direct contact may secure a faster response.

We aim to reply to all queries within 48 working hours. If you have not received a response, please email [ics-response@attrust.org.uk](mailto:ics-response@attrust.org.uk) for escalation.

### **Working together for success**

Our shared goal is simple: to give every student the very best possible start in life. High expectations, clear boundaries, and strong collaboration between school and home are key to achieving this.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Academy. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and we look forward to welcoming our students back in September—refreshed, ready, and eager to succeed.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris  
Vice Principal

