



24th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the Principal

As a Senior Leadership Team, we are writing together to thank you for the continued support you have shown our academy community over the past two weeks. Following the tragic loss of one of our students, we have all been working closely to support one another and to help our young people begin to come to terms with this profound sadness.

Since our last communication, our safeguarding team has been working tirelessly to provide care and guidance for students, and we are grateful for the expertise and compassion of the local authority's Critical Incident Team, who have now joined us in supporting both students and staff. In the face of such a difficult period, our students have shown remarkable resilience, kindness, and maturity. Their empathy for one another has been a true reflection of the values we strive to uphold at our academy.

As challenging as this time has been, it remains important that the academy continues to function in order to provide stability and support for our young people. We are also beginning to consider appropriate and thoughtful ways in which we can celebrate the life of our student, and we will share more information with you in due course.

We are particularly proud of our Year 11 students, who have approached their mock examinations with focus and determination. Their positive start is encouraging as we look ahead to the summer exam series. We would also like to thank the rest of our students, who have demonstrated our 'Be Kind' value by helping ensure a calm environment for Year 11 during this important time.

Thank you once again for the strength, compassion, and understanding you have shown as a community. Your support has been invaluable as we continue to navigate this difficult period together.

Mr Rushton

From Vice Principal (Behaviour & Welfare)

As we move further into the colder months, we would like to remind all families of the expectations regarding outdoor clothing to ensure students remain warm, safe and in correct uniform.

Outdoor Coats

Students should arrive at school each day with a **plain outdoor coat** suitable for the current cold weather. Coats should be worn over blazers only and must not feature excessive logos,

decorations, chains or studs. Once inside classes, all outdoor clothing—including coats, hats, scarves and gloves—should be removed.

No Hoodies

A reminder that hoodies, or non-uniform jumpers are not permitted under any circumstances. These items will be confiscated if worn. Students may wear the Iceni V-neck jumper under their blazer should they require an additional layer.

Safety When Walking Home

As we enter the season where evenings become darker earlier, we encourage students to wear reflective clothing or accessories on their journey to and from school. This is a regular reminder we like to consider every year, as the seasons change. Small reflective strips on coats or bags can significantly increase visibility to drivers and help keep students safe.

We appreciate your continued support in maintaining the high standards of presentation and safety outlined in our Uniform Expectations. Ensuring students are well prepared for the weather and following the uniform policy enables them to remain focused on learning throughout the school day.

If you have any questions or require support with uniform, please contact your child's Year Team.

Mr Morris

From Vice Principal (Curriculum & Outcomes)

This week, I wanted to share how impressed we are with our students' commitment to their learning this term. We continue to encourage all pupils to make regular use of **Seneca** for revision and retrieval practice, and for KS3 students, **Sparx Maths** remains an essential part of building strong mathematical foundations. Our usage of Seneca remains highest in the Trust week-on-week, and we have had a 'podium finish' more times than not within the county - particularly impressive considering our relative size!

Our Year 11 cohort, in particular, have shown real determination both through their mock exams as mentioned by Mr Rushton but also in their own independent study: we have now logged more than **1,200 Study Space sessions** during break and lunch in the Learning Resource Area, and *every single student* in the year group has attended at least once. They should be incredibly proud of themselves. We will soon be launching a new phase of **MyTutor small-group intervention** in English and Maths for around half of the year group, and I will write again with full details once arrangements are confirmed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers as we continue to embed our **shared Key Stage 3 Trust curriculum**, which launched in September in Maths, Science, History, Geography and French (with English having launched last year). Our Heads of Department have been working closely with colleagues across Academy Transformation Trust to design and implement a curriculum that is ambitious, carefully sequenced and consistent across all academies. We are already seeing the positive impact of this work in classrooms, and we look forward to the continued benefits it will bring for all our students.

Miss Staniforth

