

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Principal's update**

I hope this letter finds you well and you are looking forward to the summer holidays and spending some quality time with your children. Having started to transfer over to the school in June last year and being full time from September, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and engagement as we collectively ensure the children in the local community receive the best education possible.

The 2023/24 academic year has been an incredibly successful one for students and staff here at the academy. We have had an extremely successful visit from Ofsted with the Academy being rated 'Good in all areas', we have offered countless wider curricular opportunities including trips to Paris, Barcelona, Xscape, colleges, universities and most recently we took all Year 7 pupils to Cleethorpes. I am also looking forward to sharing the GCSE results that our year 11s will achieve after a year of hard work, we are hopeful that they will gain the best results that Serlby Park has ever achieved.

Pupils are still working hard and will continue to do so until we finish for summer at **12.00pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July**. Before this I would like to take the opportunity to give some notices and a reminder of several expectations that will make their transition back to school in September easier.

### **Changes to the school day**

It has been the case for several years that the school day start, and teachers begin teaching at 8.25am. However, the official start time for secondary pupils at Serlby was 8.30, this had led to confusion and some missed opportunities. This will change from September, after gaining approval from the Governors and consultation with stakeholders the official start time at Serlby Park will be 8.25am and the academy day will go as follows:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
08.20	Pupils on site, movement bell, pupils make their way to lesson
08.25 – 09.25	Lesson 1
09.25 – 10.25	Lesson 2
10.25 – 11.00	Registration or Assembly (20 mins)/Break (15 mins)
11.00 – 12.00	Lesson 3
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch (30 mins)/Lesson 4 (1 hour)
13.30 – 14.30	Lesson 5
14.30 – 15.30	Extra-Curricular Activities/Interventions

Please ensure your child is in school by 8.20am for the movement bell sounding and the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson to begin at 8.25am.

### **New government attendance guidance**

Attendance is something that has become a national issue in the last few years with the national average in secondary schools dropping from 95.2% in 2019 to 91.1 in 2024. On the back of this, new guidance has come out from the Government to help raise attendance and discourage pupils and parents from taking unauthorised days off, this will come into action from September 2024.

- A fixed penalty notice (fine) will be issued if a pupil has 10 unauthorised sessions (5days) of absence over a 10-week period.
- A fixed penalty notice will increase from £60 per parent per child to £80. These fines double if not paid withing a certain time window.
- If a parent/carer has had 2 fixed penalty notices within a 3-year period the 3<sup>rd</sup> will automatically lead to a court order.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

Attached to this letter is another from Miss Upright with a detailed breakdown of uniform expectations, however there are some points I would like to highlight:

- All pupils require a pencil case, pen, pencil, rubber and ruler. We will give them this at the start of the year, but it is pupil/parent responsibility to ensure this is kept topped up and with pupils every school day.
- Along with a pencil case, pupils are required to have a bag, planner and tie. Again, if this is lost/broken it must be replaced.
- Piercings are banned in school – If your child plans to get a new piercing please do this in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the summer holidays, giving it time to heal so it can be removed as they come through the school gates.

### **Arrangements for the start of term – September 2024**

Pupils will start returning to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and we will be staggering the start times for each year group. When pupils come into the Academy, they will start with an assembly then go to form to receive their planners, timetable, equipment and any other relevant information. Please can pupils be at the blue line (school entrance) for the following times:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Day/date of return to school</b>	<b>Time of return</b>
7	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	8.25am
11	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	11.00am
10	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	12.00am
9	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	1.30pm
8	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	8.25am

If you have any queries regarding the information above, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy on [info@serlbyparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@serlbyparkacademy.org.uk).

Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break.

**Yours faithfully**



**Mr J Hodgson**

**Associate Principal**