



2 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had a pleasant summer break. As I said in my Summer newsletter, we remain committed to providing an education that extends far beyond the classroom. Throughout last year, students benefited from an extensive programme of enrichment activities designed to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and develop the cultural capital required to thrive in modern Britain. Ultimately, that has led to our best ever results.

Therefore, as we prepare to welcome students back to the Academy, I am writing to remind all families of our expectations regarding **uniform, equipment, behaviour and our new smartphone-free approach for students**. Hopefully, this should mean we have a seamless and productive start to the year and we can focus on building positive relationships with our students. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

Term begins for Year 7 students tomorrow (Thursday 3 September). Years 7, Year 11 and Year 12 will be required in on Friday 4 September and ALL YEAR groups (Years 7 to Years 13) will be expected to start back together on Monday 7 September. They will enter via the following gates:

Main Entrance - Year 7 & Year 11
Vehicle Entrance - Year 10 & Sixth Form
Learning Lane Entrance - Year 8 & Year 9

Uniform Expectations

Our Uniform Policy is available on the Academy website and all students are expected to comply fully with these requirements from the first day of term.

For clarification:

- Only natural make-up and natural hair colours are permitted
- Fake eyelashes are not permitted
- Only one pair of stud earrings and a watch may be worn
- Visible facial piercings and stretcher earrings are not permitted
- Retainers of any colour, including clear retainers, are not permitted
- Coloured nail varnish and artificial/Gel/Acrylic nails are not permitted
- Hairstyles should not be extreme, including shaving below a grade two
- Eyebrows and hair should not contain razor slits, tramlines, patterns or similar designs
- Skirts must be an appropriate length and should not be rolled up
- Skinny or excessively tight trousers are not permitted
- Students are expected to wear black socks and leather/leather look shoes
- Trainers, hoodies and other non-uniform garments are not permitted within the Academy
- Chewing gum is not permitted anywhere on the Academy site.

Students will always be given an opportunity to rectify uniform or hair/nail infringements and **they may be sent home to do this**, where possible. However, where students refuse or are unable to comply, they may be placed in Reflection until the issue is resolved.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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Equipment Expectations

Students in all year groups must bring the following equipment every day:

- Two black pens
- One green pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- 15cm ruler
- Pencil case
- A suitable bag or rucksack large enough to carry all equipment

Years 7 and 8

Students must bring:

- Their Knowledge Organisers every day
- A reading book each Thursday for the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) programme

Years 9, 10 and 11

Students must bring:

- A scientific calculator every day

We also recommend students bring coloured pencils or felt-tip pens where appropriate.

Smartphone-Free Approach

As you are aware, The Bourne Academy will operate a **smartphone-free approach for all students in Years 7-11 and an adapted model for sixth form**. Please ensure you discuss, with your child, the implications of not adhering to this approach.

We believe this approach will:

- Strengthen safeguarding
- Reduce exposure to harmful online content
- Improve focus and engagement in lessons
- Support positive wellbeing and healthy social interactions
- Reduce distractions during the school day
- Minimise the risk of theft or loss
- Support families who choose to delay introducing smartphones.

What This Means

From September 2026:

- Smartphones must not be brought onto the Academy site
- No other smart devices may be brought onto site, including smartwatches, AirPods, iPads smart glasses or similar devices
- Students who require a phone for travel arrangements should use a basic mobile phone ("brick phone") only. The brick phone should be turned off and in the bottom of their bag during the Academy day
- Exceptions for medical reasons will be considered on an individual basis.

Sanctions for Smartphones or Other Smart Devices

If a student brings a smartphone or any other prohibited smart device onto site:

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First Offence

- Device confiscated until the following day.
- Parent/carer collection required.
- Principal's Detention issued.

Second Offence

- Device retained for one week.
- Student suspended.
- Parent/carer collection by appointment.

Third Offence

- Device retained until the end of the half term.
- Student suspended.
- Parent/carer collection from a senior member of staff by appointment.

Sanctions for Misuse of Permitted Basic Phones

If a student uses a permitted basic phone incorrectly:

First Offence

- Phone confiscated until the end of the day.
- Incident recorded and parents informed.

Second Offence

- As above plus a one-hour Director of Learning detention.
- Parent/carer to collect the device.

Third Offence

- Principal's Detention.
- Parent/carer collection by appointment.

Repeated breaches may result in further sanctions under the Behaviour Policy.

Any further breaches will be considered serious and persistent refusal to follow Academy expectations will result in additional sanctions in line with our Behaviour Policy and the use of banned items.

Refusal to hand over a prohibited device when requested by a member of staff will result in suspension.

Working Together

We expect all parents and carers to support the Academy in maintaining these standards. By working together, we can ensure that all students learn in a safe, purposeful and supportive environment while developing the habits and self-discipline that will enable them to succeed both in school and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Avoth

Principal

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