



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

22nd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to all new families that have joined the academy community at the start of this new academic year.

I wish to update you all with a number of matters, please take the time to read over.

New staff

We are pleased to welcome the following colleagues to our team of staff at the academy:

Mr Ofori – Geography Teacher
Ms Gallagher – Lead Teacher of Food Technology & Catering
Mr D'Netto – History Teacher
Miss Ahmed – English Teacher
Miss Goodwin – Science Teacher
Mr Skyers – Computer Science Teacher
Mr Woodhall – Head of PE
Mr Wilson – Science Teacher
Mr Waterhouse – LSA
Miss French – LSA
Mrs Latif – LSA
Miss Subratty – LSA
Mr Mann – LSA

The Heads of Year for this academic year are as follows:

Head of Year 12 and 13 – Ms Oso
Head of Year 11 – Ms Peart
Head of Year 10 – Mrs John-Oloni
Head of Year 9 – Ms Obiorah
Head of Year 8 – Ms November
Head of Year 7 – Mrs Hughes

Medical Protocols

Where there are a large number of children, from time to time some children become unwell. We have well-established practices and protocols to deal with such circumstances. However, children have, on an increasing number of occasions, caused considerable confusion by contacting their parents/carers by mobile phone, either before reporting to the welfare room or whilst in the welfare room. This proves to be unhelpful as parents/carers will often convey messages through their child to the welfare assistant and office staff. Accordingly, it is important that you remind your child that if they are ill they should report to the welfare room but **not phone or text home using their mobile phone**. If need be the welfare assistant will do this.

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Headteacher: Mr P Downey

Academy Fund

We are ever striving to provide the very best for our students. Each year, we rely on your generosity to support the academy in its developments. I am asking for a contribution of **£60 per family**. Your generosity allows so much to be achieved and adds significantly to the funds directly raised by the Governors. If you feel that you are in a position to contribute more, this would be very much appreciated. If your financial circumstances are such that you can afford less, then this will still be appreciated as all goes to the greater good of the students. Thank you for your support with the academy fund. Payment can be made via ParentPay.

With these funds we have invested in modernising the academy with the following:

- Classroom refurbishments
- Continuing ICT modernisation
- New PE equipment, including table tennis tables
- Curriculum expansion (KS3 and KS5)
- New benches and picnic areas

This year we look to continue to provide the best facilities for our students including:

- More classroom refurbishments
- Library books
- Textbooks

GCSE and A Level exam results Summer 2025

GCSE

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our GCSE and A Level students. Our students showed tremendous resilience and determination to attain remarkable results, some of the main headlines I share below:

GCSE	Nationally (based on FFT)	The Palmer Catholic Academy
Grade 4+ English & Maths	67%	78%*
Grade 5+ English & Maths	47%	49%
Grade 4+ English Language	72%	78%
Grade 5+ English Language	55%	60%
Grade 7+ English Language	19%	19%
Grade 4+ English Literature	74%	82%*
Grade 5+ English Literature	58%	61%
Grade 4+ Mathematics	74%	84%*
Grade 5+ Mathematics	54%	57%
Grade 7+ Mathematics	22%	23%
Grade 4+ Religious Education	72%	76%
Grade 5+ Biology	83%	85%
Grade 5+ Chemistry	82%	85%
Grade 5+ Physics	83%	83%

*Statistically significantly higher than national average

A Level

GRADES A* TO A	
Computer Science	38%
Maths (Further)	56%
Geography	33%
Maths	28%
Politics	25%

GRADES A* TO B	
Further Maths	89%
Geography	83%
Computer Science	75%
Psychology	60%

GRADES A* - C %	
Further Maths	100%
History	89%
Geography	100%
Sociology	78%
Law	75%
Computer Science	100%
Psychology	95%
Economics	73%
Maths	83%
Business Studies	71%

Student Absence

All student absences should be reported to the academy by 9.00am, at the latest. This can be done by emailing the academy at absence@tpc.academy.

Helpline

The Helpline is an email facility that allows students/parents/carers to contact the academy, in confidence. The helpline is as follows: helpline@tpc.academy.

The helpline is not to be used for routine academy matters, which must be addressed through the normal and well-established procedures.

If you wish to email the academy for enquiries/routine matters please use: office@tpc.academy.

Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility

If you are entitled to FSM, I have attached an information sheet that explains the entitlement to you. If you are entitled and are not registered, please do so as the funding will not only benefit your child but the academy as a whole. If you require any further information, please email Mrs Borg at aborg@tpc.academy.

Behaviour in the community

Students are expected to abide by the Behaviour Policy both inside and outside of the academy and, on the whole, the majority of our students do. Please reinforce with your child the importance of positive behaviour and polite manners to all in the local community, giving extra consideration to those who are elderly or with young children.

Student Safety – going home from the academy

As you know, I have senior staff at the gates, station and bus stops each evening. This helps ensure that the students disperse promptly and safely. Please highlight the following with your child – regardless of age.

Students:

- Must take the first bus/train home at the end of the academy day
- Are not to frequent the local shops/food shops – they are to go straight home
- Must never accept a lift from a person not known to their parents/carers.

Should a student feel threatened in any way, they are to return immediately to the academy. There will be a receptionist on duty until 4.30pm in Bede Reception. The reality is that most staff and senior staff are in the academy until gone 5.00pm. However, there will be a nominated senior member of staff "on call" each evening. If students are seen in the local shops by a member of staff, a detention will be issued.

Parent Consultations

Dates for Parent Consultation evenings are on our website. Years 7, 8 and 9 and will remain online, via Google Meet, as this method continues to prove highly successful. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be held in person at the academy. In addition, the Year 7 Settling In Evening on Wednesday 10th December 2025 will be in person, as will the Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

Open Evenings

Prospective Year 7 2025 Intake – Our Open Evening this year for prospective Year 7 2025 entry will take place on Wednesday 24th September between 4.30pm and 7.00pm.

The academy will **close early at 1.35pm on Wednesday 24th September**. The academy will re-open on Thursday 25th September from 8.20am, as usual.

Sixth Form Open Evening – The Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Thursday 27th November between 4.30pm and 7.00pm

Term dates and leave of absences

Please consult with the website regarding the published term dates for 2025-2026. I have included a copy of this with this letter too. Good attendance at school is directly linked with student progress. I look to your support to make sure students attend regularly and on time and as far as possible to keep appointments and any leave of absence to the very minimum.

Jubilee Year of Hope

We continue this academic year with a special focus on the themes of 'Jubilee Year of Hope', giving us all focus on what we are trying to achieve as both a community and as individuals, which we all have a part to play.

Wishing all our students a productive and fulfilling academic year during 2025-2026.

Yours faithfully



Mr Downey
Headteacher