



## THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome to the start of the new academic year. I thank you, as ever, for your full support in helping our students return to the academy in full academy uniform and ready to learn. Your continued attention to maintaining these standards will be invaluable as we help our young people in achieving our high expectations of behaviour, dress and learning.

I am proud to update you on the summer results. This year, students did not sit the summer exams, however the grades awarded were a result of the years of hard work and dedication of our students. We are delighted with our results, with many of our subjects strengthening. We are, of course, very proud of our students and I congratulate our students, staff and families for the work that was done in partnership to achieve these results. They are as follows:

| <u>GCSE Results</u> | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 7+ / A**-A          | 34.9% | 33.3% | 32.4% |
| Maths 4+            | 85.5% | 85.6% | 84.7% |
| English 4+          | 81.9% | 82.9% | 87.8% |

Our students achieved an incredible 128 grade 9s (A\*\*)!

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form results

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form continues to grow from strength to strength. We are extremely proud of all of our students. This year, our students have progressed onto some of the top universities, of which, 40% are attending Russell Group universities, including Cambridge. The range of courses chosen this year are wide and varied, demonstrating that our Sixth Form offers a wide range of courses to open many doors or opportunities. We wish all our leavers every success for their futures.

| <u>A Level Results</u> | 2021  | 2020  | 2019 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| A* - A                 | 36.1% | 24.5% | 12%  |
| A* - B                 | 66.5% | 50%   | 29%  |
| A* - E                 | 99.6% | 100%  | 94%  |

### 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:

- Chromebooks and Laptops
- X2 new minibuses
- Newly refurbished Food Technology Room
- New IT equipment in ICT suites
- New bike storage

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

- Classroom refurbishments
- New PE equipment
- Curriculum expansion (KS3 and KS5)
- Continue ICT modernisation
- Food Technology suite – new equipment

### **Academy Website**

Please visit our website at [www.tpc.academy](http://www.tpc.academy) to keep up to date with our latest news as well as key information including policies, exam results and links for help and advice. Our Parent Support section has lots of useful information including our Caterlink menus, e-safety, term dates and much more.

### **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 medical room or whilst in the medical 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 he/she is ill they should report to the medical room but **not phone or text home using their mobile phone**. If need be the welfare assistant will do this.

### **Helpline**

The Helpline is an email facility that allows parents/carers to contact me directly, in confidence. The helpline is as follows: [helpline@tpc.academy](mailto: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](mailto:office@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 stop 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, he/she is to return immediately to the academy. There will be a receptionist on duty until 4.45pm 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.

### **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](mailto:aborg@tpc.academy).

### **Lost Property**

If your child has misplaced any of their belongings, please ask them to check with lost property which is located in the Medical Room.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Dates for Parents' Evenings are on our website. It is anticipated these will remain online via Google Meet, this proved highly successful last year.

### **Open Evening**

Our Open Evening this year for prospective Year 7 2022 entry will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September between 5pm and 8pm.

The academy will also be hosting morning tours (as detailed below), for those parents/carers who are unable to attend the Open Evening. Tours are restricted to 1 parent/carer and 1 child and will take approximately 45 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 9.15am to 10.30am
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 9.15am to 10.30am

**Please note that these tours are by appointment only.** If you wish to make an appointment, please contact Ms Bolton by telephone on 0208 590 3808 or via email at [jbolton@tpc.academy](mailto:jbolton@tpc.academy). Please share this information with family and friends who are considering their secondary school choices soon.

### **Term Dates/Diary dates**

The term dates for 2021–2022 are on our academy website. I attach another copy for retention and reference. Diary dates for the autumn term are also available on the website.

I look forward to seeing you over the academic year.

Yours sincerely



**Mr P Downey**  
**Headteacher**