



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

25^h September 2026

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:

Miss McCann – Art Teacher
Miss Smith – Science Teacher
Mr Mann – English Teacher
Mr Munni – Science Teacher
Miss Imbert-Weekes – PE Teacher
Miss Rahman – English Teacher
Mr Bhuta – IT Support Officer

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

Saint Carlo Acutis – Mrs Hughes
Saint Josephine Bakhita – Mrs Peart
Saint John Bosco – Mr Millbery/Mrs Peel/Mr Avis
Saint John Paul II – Ms Obiorah
Saint Oscar Romero – Ms Oso
Saint Bernadette Soubirous – Mrs John-Oloni

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
- 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 – all classrooms have SMART boards
- Vibrant and well sourced library
- Sixth Form Study Areas and Common Room
- Updated Canteen Service Provision

Aldborough Road South, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex IG3 8EU
Telephone: 020 8590 3808

Email: office@tpc.academy Website: www.tpc.academy

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England with number 7696155

Headteacher: Mr P Downey

GCSE and A Level exam results Summer 2026

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	66%	74%
Grade 5+ English & Maths	47%	53%
Grade 4+ English Language	72%	73%
Grade 5+ English Language	55%	53%
Grade 7+ English Language	19%	21%
Grade 4+ English Literature	73%	75%
Grade 5+ English Literature	57%	59%
Grade 7+ English Literature	19%	17%
Grade 4+ Mathematics	73%	75%
Grade 5+ Mathematics	54%	54%
Grade 7+ Mathematics	22%	26%
Grade 4+ Religious Education	72%	75%
Grade 5+ Biology	83%	100%*
Grade 7+ Biology	44%	70%*
Grade 4+ Chemistry	92%	100%*
Grade 7+ Chemistry	45%	67%*
Grade 5+ Physics	83%	100%*
Grade 7+ Physics	44%	64%*

**Statistically significantly higher than national average*

A Level

GRADES A* TO A	
Geography	60%
Art and Design	33%
Psychology	29%
Maths	24%
Economics	22%
Politics	20%

GRADES A* TO B	
Geography	80%
Sociology	69%
Art and Design	67%
Psychology	52%
Politics	50%
English Literature	50%

GRADES A* - C	
Sociology	100%
Geography	100%
Computer Science	100%
English Literature	90%
Politics	89%
Psychology	86%
Law	86%
Maths	83%
Business Studies	76%

From September 2026, the academy is offering the following vocational subjects in the Sixth Form:

Health & Social Care (Double Award)
 Business (Double Award)
 Human Biology (Applied)
 Criminology (Applied)

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. Please email office@tpc.academy with the following information: student's name and form, your full name (person claiming benefits), your National Insurance number and your date of birth.

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. All parent consultation evenings will be held in person at the academy. The Year 7 Settling In Evening will take place on Wednesday 18th November 2026 and the Year 9 Options Evening will take place on Wednesday 21st April 2027.

Morning Tours/Sixth Form Open Evening

Prospective Year 7 2027 Intake – Our Morning Tours will run from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October starting at 9.15am and finishing at approximately 10.30am.

Please note that these tours are by appointment only. If you wish to book one of the morning tours, please email Ms Bolton at jbolton@tpc.academy stating which day you would like to attend.

Sixth Form Open Evening – The Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Thursday 26th November between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

DEAR/Year of Reading

As part of our Year of Reading, Years 7 to 9 take part in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), dedicated time each week for reading for pleasure in the school day. This term Year 7 are reading The Double Life of Ted Amos, Year 8 are reading Can You See Me, and Year 9 are reading Orange Boy.

Year 12 wider reading

Year 12 students are following our wider reading programme, with a curated list of texts for each subject to broaden their knowledge beyond the curriculum and support their preparation for further study.

Exercise books

This year students have been issued new exercise books, bespoke to each subject and branded with the academy crest. We are placing a strong focus on pride and presentation in these books, and would ask parents to check them at home from time to time, particularly when homework has been set, to help reinforce these standards.

Learning wallets

All students have been issued a learning wallet, containing a mini whiteboard, wiper and pen. These are used regularly in lessons to support retrieval practice and quick checks for understanding, and we would ask parents to help ensure their child brings theirs to school each day.

Mobile Phone Pouches

A reminder that students were issued with mobile phone pouches at the start of the academic year. Please see the academy’s website for further information.

Allergy Aware Academy

The academy is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all students with allergies and medical conditions. The academy’s Allergy Safety Policy is available on the academy’s website and applies to all students, employees, volunteers, contractors, visitors, and anyone participating in academy activities both on and off-site.

All staff complete annual training in Allergy and Anaphylaxis Awareness.

Term dates and leave of absences

Please consult with the website regarding the published term dates for 2026-2027. I have included a copy of these 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.

Wishing all our students a productive and fulfilling academic year during 2026-2027.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Downey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Mr Downey
Headteacher