



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to all new families that have joined the academy community at the start of this new academic year. We had a great induction day today with both year 7 and 12 and we are excited to welcome all students tomorrow at 8.40am.

I wish to update you all with a number of matters, admittedly a rather lengthy letter, but 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:

- Mrs Lenihan – Learning Support Assistant
- Mrs Cameron – English Teacher and Deputy SENCO
- Ms Dualeh – English Teacher

Academy Site updates

We have a number of new benches and picnic tables across both Palmer and Kolbe Yard for our student's use. Also, we have replaced our outdoor table tennis tables on both playgrounds too. On Kolbe Yard we have two new canopies to offer shade and shelter.

We have refreshed our Palmer corridors in both RE and Geography, we no longer have dark blue corridors and hope to continue to refresh the rest of Palmer tower over some time.

Our boiler and heating works were completed in Mother Theresa House, well ahead of the winter months.

As written in a previous update, the roofing works will continue longer than first planned and we are pleased with how thorough and swiftly the works are coming along.

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
- New PE equipment, including table tennis tables
- Curriculum expansion (KS3 and KS5)
- New benches and picnic areas
- Continue ICT modernisation
- 6th Form Common Room upgrade
- Additional 6th Form study area
- New canopies

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

Headteacher: Mr P Downey

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 2023

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:

	National score grade 9 to 5	The Palmer Catholic Academy grade 9 to 5	National score grade 9 to 7	The Palmer Catholic Academy grade 9 to 7
English Language	47.9%	71.7%	16.0%	24.1%
English Literature	57.7%	72.4%	20.6%	31.4%
Maths	43.0%	74.6%	17.2%	31.7%
RE	61.3%	81.0%	30.6%	35.1%
Combined Science	35.7%	56.3%	8.5%	8.2%
Biology	79.2%	96.4%	42.0%	46.4%
Chemistry	79.1%	94.6%	43.6%	51.8%
Physics	79.9%	98.2%	43.0%	48.2%

A Level

GRADES A* TO A	
Further Maths	80%
Maths	22.7%
Economics	21.7%

GRADES A* TO B	
Further Maths	100%
History	50%
Maths	45.5%
Government and Politics	43.8%
Psychology	43.5%

GRADES A* - C %	
Further Maths	100%
History	92.9%
Geography	91.7%
Sociology	90.5%
English Literature	87.5%
Media Studies	87.5%
Government and Politics	75%
Computer Science	70%
Psychology	69.6%
Economics	65.2%
Maths	61.4%

Mrs Chloe Edmunds RIP

Our academy still mourns the death of Mrs Chloe Edmunds who was a Humanities teacher at our academy for the past 18 months.

The funeral shall be at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 4AT on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 10.00am.

We shall be having a Mass on Friday 8th September at 8.20am in the academy's Chapel, with the Mass intention being for Chloe Edmunds. The Mass will be led by Fr Dominic, the parish priest of St Edward the Confessor. Students are welcome to join members of staff at this mass should they wish to attend.

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.

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.

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, 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.

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.

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.

Parent Consultations

Dates for Parent Consultation evenings are on our website. These will remain online, via Google Meet, as this method continues to prove highly successful.

Open Evenings

Prospective Year 7 2024 Intake

Our Open Evening this year for prospective Year 7 2024 entry will take place on Thursday 19th October between 4.30pm and 7.00pm.

The academy will **close early at 2pm on Thursday 19th October**. Friday 20th October is a planned Staff Inset day and, therefore, students will not need to attend on this day.

Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Thursday 9th November between 4.30pm and 7.00pm

Term dates and leave of absences

Please consult with the website regarding the published term dates for 2023-2024. 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.

Year ahead - Mission and prayer

This year our academy will be placing a special focus on the themes of 'mission and prayer', 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 2023-2024.

Yours faithfully



Mr Downey
Headteacher