



## THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that another academic year is soon coming to an end. I thank students, staff and parents/carers for the continued support and hard work that has gone into making this another successful academic year.

I would like to commend the conduct of our Y11 and Y13 students who have been a credit to their families during this examination season. We have been delighted with the mature and steadfast reaction of our students during this particularly stressful time and wish them the success that they deserve this summer.

### Breakfast Club

A reminder that supervised Breakfast Club runs every morning, Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 8.40am in O'Donnell Hall. Please note that students who are on Pupil Premium have an additional £1.00 added to their accounts.

### Social Media Monitoring

Increasingly we are dealing with behaviour resulting from social media conversations that students are having in the evenings and in some very worrying incidences, until the very early hours of the morning. You will be aware of the potential harm of this. I urge all parents and carers to check their child's phone intermittently. Be aware of passwords and where possible, confiscate phones after a certain time to enable children to sleep uninterrupted and for them to be able to settle for the evening.

The app 'Snap Chat' is a particular app the academy is dealing with very frequently and I strongly encourage all parents/carers to directly monitor or even stop your child using. This app has features including 'For my eyes only' which parents/carers may not be aware of and encourages secret and private use.

Please see below the following websites that may be of use and guidance for all parents/carers:

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

[www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/](http://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

### Mobile Phones

The Mobile Phone Policy can be found on the academy's website. Please read the document carefully to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion that could be caused by not accessing the policy. The policy of the academy has always been that students should not bring mobile phones into the academy. Therefore, all mobile phones that are brought into the academy are done so at the owner's own risk.

Full responsibility will rest with students who bring their phones onto the academy site that the phones remain switched off and are not used if students are to avoid the confiscation sanctions as laid out in the policy.

### Travelling home from the academy

As you know, it is academy policy to which we request parent / carer support, to encourage students to go straight home when they leave the academy. Students are told not to enter the local shops and hang around the locality and members of staff are in key areas at the end of the academy day to support students in getting home safely.

For the safety of your child, please reinforce the importance of them going straight home at the end of the day or at the end of any extended activity that they may have at the end of the academy day.

### Staff Changes

The following staff will be leaving us at the end of the summer term:

Mr Welch – Maths Teacher  
Mr McCarville – Head of Science  
Mr Islam – Director of Finance & Resources  
Mr Kashim – Data Manager

I would like to thank these staff for the contribution they have made to the development and success of the academy.

### New Staff

We welcome the following staff to the academy this September:

Ms Russell – History Teacher  
Ms Joseph – RE Teacher  
Ms McCoy – Music Teacher  
Mr Atiase – Maths Teacher  
Ms Gauthier – Spanish Teacher  
Mrs Inamdar – Science Teacher  
Mr Hannan – English Teacher

### Academy Uniform

Students are to return to the academy in September in full uniform. You are encouraged not to purchase uniform items from any uniform shop other than our official supplier, Lucilla in Cranbrook Road, Ilford. Other supposed 'official suppliers' are selling items that are incorrect such as badges, skirt styles etc. Please note that students are required to wear a plain white uniform shirt (no pockets) that must be worn tucked in and with a tie.

Students should wear plain black shoes that are able to be polished, with flat heel and worn below the ankle. Patent style shoes, sling-backs, open toes, stilettos, kicker boots, trainers, canvas shoes and shoe-styled trainers are not allowed. There should be no identifying "tags" or "labels." Examples of suitable footwear for boys and girls can be found on our website.

***Should students arrive at the academy wearing unsuitable footwear, it will be confiscated until the end of the day and students will be given plimsolls to wear over the course of the academy day. This will continue until students have the correct shoes.***

### Term Dates for Academic Year 2019-2020

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2019 to July 2020. These are also available on the website.

### Diary Dates

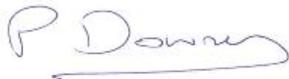
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole academy Sports Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Academy closes at 12.30pm for all students for the end of the academic year
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Staff Inset Day – academy closed to students
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Staff Inset Day – academy closed to students
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	A Level results available for collection by students at the academy from 7.30am
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	GCSE results available for collection by students at the academy from 7.30am

### Start of academic year 2019/20

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Staff Inset Day – academy closed to students
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Staff Inset Day – academy closed to students
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7 and 13 return at 8.40am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	All students return at 8.40am

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the academy and wish you and your families a happy, enjoyable and restful summer break and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Downey  
Headteacher