



September 2022

## Start of Term Letter

Dear Families

It has been wonderful to see the students back and to greet new faces as Year 7 have started with us. The students have been fantastic on their return to school and we look forward to a term full of hard work and exciting activities.

### Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We are all saddened to hear of the passing away of the Queen; she has been a strong, unifying presence to our country since before most of us were born and has touched the lives of millions with her sense of duty, decency and service.

The Department of Education wrote to me this morning stating that students should continue to attend as normal and that announcements regarding the funeral and other arrangements would be made over the next few days.

To commemorate her life and service, I will hold some additional assemblies next week looking back over her 70 years as Queen of our nation. As more information is released from the Palace and the Department for Education I will contact you with any updates.

### Update on Post 16

Since the Academy opened, one of the most common questions I have had is “will we have a sixth form?”

We would very much like to have a sixth form at the Academy and it remains a goal that we will work towards. However, this would require approval and the funds to create a new building on our site.

At this point we do not think it is realistic to think we will have a sixth form centre up and running for our current Year 10 students. I have talked to them about this. Over the next year we will ensure that they have access to different educational providers, advice about their options and support in completing references and applications.

Within the Trust we run Sixth Forms at Shireland Collegiate Academy, Shireland Biomedical and next year, at Shireland CBSO School we may also play some part in this at WBCA. I will arrange it so that our students have information about the Post-16 options at these schools and ensure that they have interviews, should they want them. As with all Post 16 courses at all institutions, there will be entry requirements for different courses.

### Parking at WBCA

The Academy car park is very busy in the mornings; it often is in the first few weeks. I would ask please, especially to our new parents that you only drop your children off in the drop off zone or car park and not when queuing on the roadway into these areas. If a door is flung open and a child jumps out on the left hand side as a car comes round in the other lane it could cause an awful accident. It is the equivalent of putting a child out into a busy road. Please be patient and accept it may take a couple of minutes to drop your child off.

### **E Scooters**

Currently electronic scooters other than those run by the council trial scheme are not legal on Britain's roads or pavements. This may change in the future but at the current time we cannot allow these items on site because of these legal issues. We ask that children do not bring electronic scooters to the Academy. Bikes and normal scooters are permitted – they must be pushed down the Academy paths once through the gate and students should bring a lock to store them safely in the bike shed.

### **Parent Pay**

Thank you to all those who have signed up to Parent Pay. If you are struggling to log in or to upload funds to your child's account please come into the office with the phone or device which you will access your account and our office staff will be pleased to help you. You can also phone in and receive support over the phone.

### **Open Evening**

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students and families is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 4:30pm – 8:00pm. Please do spread the word if you know people who may be interested. As usual, we will be asking some students to help out on the night. The Academy is open as normal on this day.

### **Settling in Evening**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 we have our Settling-In Evening for Year 7 parents. This is an opportunity to hear about the year ahead and to meet your child's Literacy for Life teacher. The evening will take place from 3:40pm along the Year 7 corridor. A booking system will be launched via Edulink and more details shared with you closer to the time.

### **Edulink**

Edulink is an app that we use to communicate various things with you. It can be accessed online or an app for your phone can be downloaded from the app or android stores. Separate instructions will be emailed out to you but we ask that all families access Edulink as this will be where we send out letters, consent forms for trips, you can access school reports, notices and in the next few weeks,

see the homework that your child is being set. Please contact the main office if you need any help with Edulink.

### **Clubs and Societies**

We are currently completing our Clubs and Societies programme for 2022/23. This will be published for signups next week with the intention that they will begin from week 3. Homework club will operate from next week, in the Library every day except Tuesday until 4:25.

### **Breakfast**

The Academy offers a Breakfast service from 8:25am, cereal is free to students or there are items that can be purchased. Please do ask students to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Food at Breaks and Lunches**

A variety of hot and cold food is offered in the Canteen each day. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, the credit is applied to their accounts each day after break time, to ensure that the money is spent at lunchtime. Free School Meals funds cannot be spent on breacktime snacks.

If for some reason your child is in arrears in their Parent Pay account at lunch time they will be provided with food but it must be either a hot or cold meal deal or a jacket potato meal. We will not permit children to purchase only snacks on their account if they do not have the funds to cover it – though we will always let them have a full meal. This is to encourage healthy eating. The Catering Team are all aware of this, we will remind students in school but please remind your child that they should not just be choosing cakes or snacks instead of a meal.

If your child has a negative balance on their Parent Pay account they will not be allowed to have snacks at breacktime, but as explained above, they will be provided with a hot or cold meal deal.

I thank you all for your support in our first week back and hope we will have a great term and year ahead.

Yours sincerely

George Faux  
**Principal**



