

19th July 2024

Headteacher's end-of-year update: July 2024

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of a really successful year at the Academy. Our [Challenge Partners Review](#) in March showed the progress that we have made, and we continue to work tirelessly to provide the best possible education for your children. Our students continue to excel within and beyond the classroom, as our successful activities week and sports day has shown.

I wanted to thank everyone who filled in the parent survey back in April and May. This showed a really positive endorsement of our work, alongside some very helpful feedback to help us improve. I was delighted to see a 30% increase in parental confidence that this is a school which ensures its students are well behaved, but parents and carers also said that they wanted more information about what their children are learning and the progress they are making. We have used all the feedback from the surveys to help us shape our planning for the next academic year, to continue to improve in the best interests of all the young people we serve.

In my final update of the year you will find information about student timetables, some reminders about uniform in case you are shopping for new items over the summer, a staffing update, and details of the arrangements for the start of term in September 2024.

Student timetables

Student timetables will be visible in Bromcom (and for families in MCAS) if you set the date forward to September. Timetables will be rolled out gradually and will therefore fill up with lessons over July and August. Students will be issued with a paper copy of their final timetable as part of their extended tutor time on their first day back in September.

Students going into Years 8 and 9 will find themselves in new learning groups for September. This is to enable us to adapt the timetable and curriculum to

meet the needs of all students as well as to provide the opportunity to work with others in their year group.

Students moving into Year 10 will be starting their new GCSE and other Level 2 courses. Confirmed options choices have been shared with students via email and all queries which have come back to us have been resolved. The start of these courses in September is a really important part of the curriculum delivery and changes to options will only be made in exceptional circumstances and, in all cases, no later than the end of September.

Students hoping to join the Sixth Form in Year 12 should have their offers already. Places will be confirmed provided students meet the entry requirements on GCSE results day on 22nd August. Arrangements for results days have been communicated separately.

Finally, students moving into Year 11 and 13 will continue into the second and final year of their courses ahead of their exams in summer 2025.

Uniform

We are very grateful for the support of families in ensuring that students wear the correct uniform and bring the correct equipment to school every day. The uniform, PE kit and equipment list will be **unchanged throughout the next academic year**. Full details can be found on the Academy website at <https://www.churchill-academy.org/uniform/>. If you are buying new uniform for September, please note the following specific elements which are completely unchanged but which can sometimes be points of contention:

- **Charcoal grey plain full-length trousers**
- **Plain black flat polishable shoes.** Must be all black, with no coloured logos or flashes. Shoes should enclose and protect toes and heels for health and safety reasons. Boots, canvas or fabric shoes or trainers are not allowed. Air Force or similar plain black trainers with uppers that are “polishable” are acceptable as school shoes, as are any plain black polishable shoes. Trainers with fabric uppers, or trainers with white or coloured logos or flashes, are not acceptable.
- **Black socks** only
- **Jewellery:** students are permitted a watch and a ring. Piercings in the ear and/or nose must be studs only for health and safety reasons. Hoops, rings, dangly, spiked, chain link or spacer style ear or nose piercings are not permitted. No other piercings are allowed (e.g. tongue or other parts of the body). All piercings must be removed or covered with a plaster

when taking part in PE or Dance. Bracelets and anklets should not be worn. Necklaces should be tucked inside tops. All watches of any kind must be removed during exams.

- **Make up:** make up is not permitted in Years 7 or 8. In Years 9-11 make up, if worn, should be discreet. Nail varnish, false nails and false eyelashes are not permitted.

Student leaders have been working hard on proposals for an updated PE kit. We are currently working with suppliers on this with a view to introducing new options for September 2025. We will provide further information on this next year when arrangements are finalised. We are committed to students being able to wear the existing PE kit throughout their time at the Academy, so you can get full wear out of the existing kit (including hand-me-downs). Therefore, even if changes are adopted, the current PE kit will remain acceptable until at least 2028-29 (when next year's Year 7 students reach Year 11).

Staffing update

I am delighted to confirm that we have made excellent recruitments, and we are fully staffed for September. I have been delighted with the calibre and quality of applications we received, especially given the challenges facing all schools with recruitment at the moment. We are really looking forward to working with our new colleagues. The following new staff are joining us, or have already started:

Staff name	Role
Mr T Abrahams	Teacher of English
Ms I Beets	Teacher of Psychology (trainee)
Mrs A Colvin	School Administrator
Mrs C Harrington	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss J Hockin	Teacher of History
Mrs I MacDonald	School Administrator
Mr L Matthews	Teacher of PE
Ms E O'Callaghan	Teacher of Science (trainee)
Ms J Smith	Leader of Learning for Science (KS3)
Mrs L Stringer	Teacher of Design & Technology

We also have a number of staff moving to new roles within the Academy, as follows:

Staff name	New Role
Miss V Bogonosov	Leader of Learning for Sociology and Criminology
Mrs A Crocker	Director of RE, PSHE and Assistant Careers Leader
Ms H Smith	Leader of Learning for English (post-16)
Mrs H Whiteley	Teacher of Design & Technology (trainee)
Mr N Waller	Outdoor Education Coordinator

Congratulations to the following staff who have got married and will be returning under their new surnames in September:

- Miss Booth (IB), Leader of Learning for KS3 English, is now Mrs Kearsley (IK)
- Miss Culley (GC), Leader of Learning for Law and Health & Social Care, is now Mrs Sharman (GES)
- Miss Hodge (LEH), Co-Director of Design & Technology, is now Mrs Dearn (LED)
- Miss Sorrell (MS), Teacher of Science, is now Mrs McGraw (MMG)
- Ms Orme (ZEO), Teaching Assistant, will be Mrs Smith (ZES)

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of this term. We say farewell to:

- Mrs S Gibbs (Laundry Assistant)
- Miss H Collins (HR Administrator)
- Miss E Edwards (History)
- Miss A Homewood (English)
- Ms L Mantle (Performing Arts)
- Mr J Molony (Science)
- Ms D Parker (English)
- Mr A Tinker (Mathematics and Outdoor Education)
- Mr D Tivenan (Design and Technology)

We thank them all for their contribution to the Academy over their time with us and wish them all well in the future.

Arrangements for the start of term: September 2024

Finally, a quick reminder about the arrangements for the start of term in September 2024:

Date	Details
Monday 2nd September	Inset day for staff only. Academy closed to students.
Tuesday 3rd September	Term starts for Year 7 and Year 12 students only.
Wednesday 4th September	Term starts for students in Years 8-11; term continues for students in Years 7-12.
Thursday 5th September	Term starts for students in Year 13. All students back in school.

Dates for the diary

Over the course of September, we will be holding a parent information evening for each year group to give details of the curriculum, expectations, and the shape of the year ahead, as well as advice about how you can support your children and the Academy over the course of the year. Please put these dates in the diary now:

- Monday 9th September - Year 11
- Tuesday 10th September - Year 8
- Monday 16th September - Year 10
- Tuesday 17th September - Year 9
- Wednesday 18th September - Year 12
- Monday 23rd September - Year 7
- Tuesday 24th September - Year 13

The evenings will start at 6:30pm and will last approximately an hour. We will send out a further reminder about these dates when we return in September.

A full list of term dates and INSET days can be found on our website here: <https://www.churchill-academy.org/Information/Term-Dates/>.

With thanks for all your support over the course of the past year. On behalf of all at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form, we wish you a restful, relaxing and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hildrew
Headteacher