

18 July 2024

Dear parents and carers

End of academic year letter to parents

This will be the last letter of the 2023-24 academic year. Thank you for all your support through this year and for working closely with us to ensure we jointly achieve the very best for your child. It's been a strong year with much to be proud of. I hope and pray that the summer break brings rest, relaxation and a time of refreshment.

End of term arrangements: The last day of the academic year is this *Friday (19th July)*. This will be a half day and school will finish with year groups departing *from* 12.15pm, with all year groups dismissed by 12.30pm. The school office will close at 1pm on Friday.

Please note that the school is closed over the summer and staff will be on their holidays. Please do not email expecting a response over the summer. Staff will reply to emails by the end of the first week in September.

New academic year: Your child starts the 2024-25 academic year on **Tuesday 3rd September**. Only the children *starting* in our new Year 7 will be in school for their induction days on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th August.

Staggered start on the first day back: Tuesday 3rd September:

All students will come back on *Tuesday 3rd September* but we will ***stagger the start times that day*** to manage all the logistics on the first day as follows:

- The new Year 7 and new Year 11 will start at 8.30am.
- The new Year 9 will start at 9.30am.
- The new Year 8 and new Year 10 will start at 10.30am.

Form tutors for next year: On the last page of this letter you will see a full list of the Form teachers from September. The Form tutor is your first point of contact in school.

End of year reports: Your child's report was sent home via SatchelOne on Monday. Your child has also seen this report already as part of our end of term review in their form time this week. No hard copy reports have been sent home. All reports are available via SatchelOne, which you and your child have access to.

New statutory guidance on attendance: from the 19 August, new statutory guidance comes into force to address the significant national, regional and local concerns there are regarding school attendance. Overall, attendance at Lowton is not good enough. Whilst this may not apply to your child specifically, it does apply to the majority. I welcome the new sanctions that are being introduced to deter unnecessary absence from school, and encourage the strong habit of strong attendance and punctuality.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

No holidays in term time: The new rules mean you will **no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.** That means, if your child is absent for the first week of September, after a six-week school holiday, the school will take steps for parents to be fined.

Lowton does not authorise holidays during term time, and we will be following the new law on school attendance stringently.

Staff moving on: As often happens at the end of a school year, a number of staff are leaving or moving on to a new chapter:

- **Miss Davies** leaves her Student Support Manger role to take up a promoted role at a new school.
- **Mr Mooney** leaves us as Head of Computing to lead a bigger department in another school.
- **Mr Gibson** leaves us having been an English teacher with us for the last year.
- **Miss Kermani** leaves her Teaching Assistant role to move to Scotland for a new chapter in her life.
- **Mrs Lundy** leaves her Teaching Assistant role to pursue a career as a History teacher.
- **Mr Reilly** leaves us having been a History teacher, Head of History and a member of the Senior Leadership Team to pursue new opportunities beyond school but still within the education sector.
- **Mrs Thorpe** leaves the Languages Team to 'retire' from teaching, but take up a new role beyond school working in the Targeted Youth Service as a Restorative Practitioner.
- **Mr Rowe** leaves us at the end of this term. You may be aware he has been unwell since last December, and although has made a good recovery has decided to leave to further his recovery.

We are fully staffed in all teaching areas for the new academic year. I will provide an update of all staff in September, including introducing our new staff.

Uniform: We will be sending a more detailed reminder regarding uniform at the start of term, but if you are considering purchasing new shoes or coats for September, please ensure your purchase in line with our uniform expectations. You can check what is acceptable or not via the uniform section of our website: <https://www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk/parents/uniform>.

As ever, thank you for all your support through this academic year and for working so closely with us so that your child can flourish, thrive and succeed at school.

With every blessing to you, your child and your family for a restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

Form Tutors 2023-24

Year 7		
Head of Year: Mrs Roberts		SLT Link: Miss Clare
Form	Room	Staff Name
7.1	H1	Miss Calland
7.2	H7	Mr Cotton
7.3	H8	Miss Jones
7.4	H6	Miss Lindsay
7.5	H5	Miss O’Dea Baxter
7.6	H3	Mr Merrick

Year 8		
Head of Year: Mrs Thomason		SLT Link: Mrs Cooper
Form	Room	Staff Name
8.1	L6	Miss Gedney
8.2	J8	Mr Yasin
8.3	J4	Mrs Critchley
8.4	B5	Miss Robb
8.5	L8	Miss Larkin
8.6	G7	Miss Picton

Year 9		
Head of Year: Mrs Tither		SLT Link: Mr Carter
Form	Room	Staff Name
9.1	L5	Mrs Singleton
9.2	D2	Miss Baggaley
9.3	G5	Mrs Reynolds
9.4	J6	Mrs Ibbotson
9.5	K1	Mr Whitfield
9.6	A4	Mr Lyall

Year 10		
Head of Year: Miss Gebelli		SLT Link: Miss Rullo
Form	Room	Staff Name
10.1	G9	Mr Gash
10.2	E5	Mr Wilson
10.3	E6	Mr Burgess
10.4	B7	Mr Dunne
10.5	G3	Miss Fazakerley
10.6	F3	Miss Kotula

Year 11		
Head of Year: Mrs Black		SLT Link: According to their area of leadership
Form	Room	Staff Name
11.1	G2	Mr Rimmington
11.2	L7	Mrs Foulds
11.3	L4	Miss Benson
11.4	G8	Mr McGuinness
11.5	G4	Mr Sutherland
11.6	J5	Mr Graham