



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach the start of the summer holidays. We have had a wonderful year at Teesdale School and Sixth Form.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, students and our staff for all the hard work that has ensured the school continues to go from strength to strength as we move forward together.

Please find below details of the arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term and some reminders about uniform standards and expectations.

Arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term

- **Tuesday 1st September:** INSET day for staff (students not in school)
- **Wednesday 2nd September:** All students return to school.

Please read the following reminders carefully. In particular, **the information regarding our uniform.**

The School Day

All students are expected to be on school site at 8:30am.

The school day ends at 3:10pm unless a student has a scheduled activity, enrichment opportunity or sanction at the end of the day.

Please see below timings of the new school day.

	Mondays only	Tuesday - Friday
School is open from	8:15 am, with students encouraged to be on site by 8.30 am	8:15 am, with students encouraged to be on site by 8.30 am
Form Time	PSHE 8:40 – 9:25	8.40 - 9.05
Period 1	9:25 – 10:20	9.05 – 10.05
Period 2	10:20 – 11:15	10.05 – 11.05
Break	11:15 – 11:35	11.05 - 11.25
Period 3	11:35 – 12:30	11.25 - 12.25
Lunchtime	12:30 – 1:10	12.25 – 1.00
Period 4	1:10 – 2:10	1.00 – 2.05
Period 5	2:10 – 3:10	2.05 - 3.10
End of school day	3:10	3.10

Lunch Arrangements

Within our school lunch offer, special dietary requirements can be catered for. However, we ask that you contact school to discuss any specific requirements at the start of term. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive a school lunch free of charge.

Please note that the cost of the school meal deal is £3.00 in line with all of the North East Learning Trust schools.

Despite rising food and energy costs, we have done our best to keep our school meals as keenly priced as we can for families. Sadly, these increased cost pressures have continued to impact us, and we must now raise the price of school meals. This will mean the price of a meal deal goes from £2.80 to £3.00 (an increase of 7% in line with free school meal prices) starting in September.

Students may also opt to bring a packed lunch to school. We ask that parents ensure their child's packed lunch contains a healthy balance of items. Please remember that energy drinks and fizzy drinks and nuts are not permitted in school.

We are a nut-free school

To help ensure the safety of all pupils, particularly those with severe nut allergies, please do not send any nuts or products containing nuts into school. This applies to:

- Packed lunches

- Break-time snacks
- Food brought in for celebrations or special occasions

In addition, when pupils attend **school trips, educational visits, or other off-site activities**, nuts and nut-containing products must not be included in their packed lunches.

Uniform

All students are expected to be in full uniform, which is detailed below, from the beginning of the Autumn Term. Our uniform policy is available on our website along with links to Emblematic our uniform provider.

Blazers, ties, shirts and jumpers

- Navy blazer with the school badge (Grey blazers are permitted until September 2027)
- Plain white school shirt buttoned to the neck
- School tie
- Navy v-neck jumper (optional)

Trousers and skirts

While we are more than happy for parents and students to purchase school uniform from a wide variety of sources, we have worked closely with Emblematic to provide trousers and skirts which meet our uniform rules.

- Opaque grey tights must be worn with skirts - no socks are allowed with skirts.
- Plain charcoal grey formal straight cut trousers (black trousers are permitted with grey blazers) - not jeans, leggings or stretchy style
- School pleated skirt - must be no more than one inch above the knee.

Footwear

- Plain black, formal shoes. Shoes with large bows, gold/silver decorations or logos are not permitted.
- No boots or trainers.
- Socks must be black with trousers (trainer/ankle socks are not acceptable).

Details regarding our PE uniform expectations can be found on the school website

Other reminders

- Jewellery: no necklaces, bracelets, or rings should be worn. Students may wear one single metal stud in each earlobe – no other visible piercings are allowed.
- False, gel or acrylic nails are not permitted
- False eyelashes are not permitted

Other Equipment

All students are expected to have the following equipment for school:

- a school bag (big enough to carry an A4 folder). Backpack styles are recommended to ensure the weight of the bag is evenly distributed on the back.
- a pencil case, containing, as a minimum, a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber (please ensure your child also has spares of these items).

Mobile phones

The DfE has now issued statutory guidance which requires schools to maintain mobile phone-free environments throughout the school day. Schools are expected to follow this guidance from September 2026. We are pleased that our long-established approach already meets these national expectations.

As a trust, we believe that schools should be calm, safe and focused environments where every child can thrive. We know that mobile phones can be a distraction to learning and social interaction and can present additional safeguarding concerns during the school day. Our phone-free approach helps students focus on what matters most: their learning, their friendships and their future.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for the support you have shown in helping us maintain these high standards across our academies.

To support a phone-free school day, we continue to follow the following:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and stored in bags before entering the academy site.
- Phones must remain out of sight and stored securely in bags throughout the school day.

These expectations apply throughout the school day, including lessons, social times, movement around the academy, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Our approach is not simply about reducing distraction. It also supports our wider commitment to safeguarding by helping to reduce opportunities for cyberbullying, inappropriate online contact and other online harms during the school day. A phone-free environment enables students to engage more positively with their peers and with their learning.

We also recognise the importance of adults modelling the behaviours we expect from our students. While you may occasionally see staff using trust-issued mobile devices, these are used solely as professional tools to support the effective operation of the academy and, most importantly, to help keep children safe.

Sixth Form mobile phone expectations

- Students may use mobile phones and other personal devices in designated Sixth Form-only areas, including the Sixth Form common room and study spaces.

- When in use, phones should be primarily used for educational purposes and should not be used to access social media or for socialising.
- Mobile phones must not be used in lessons unless directed by a member of staff for educational purposes.
- When moving around the wider school site or accessing shared areas used by younger students, Sixth Form students should ensure devices are used not seen in line with academy expectations.
- Students should not use mobile phones to record, photograph or film others without permission.

These expectations apply throughout the school day, including lessons, social times and movement around the school. The Sixth Form arrangements reflect the greater independence afforded to older students while maintaining a culture of respect, safety and learning across the school.

And finally

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back refreshed and ready to go in the Autumn Term. Until then, I hope that you all have a safe and restful summer break.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. H Zaheer
Head of School