

Dear families

End of Year Letter – July 2025

At the end of my first year as Head of School at The Bridge Academy, I would like to personally say thank you to you all for your support in ensuring that your children access our brilliant offer here. As we mark the end of the academic year, I am writing to reflect on what we have achieved and share some important updates as we enter the next academic year of 2025 – 2026. I can confirm that we will break up for the Summer Holidays on Friday 18th July 2025, at the usual time of 1pm.

Reflecting on the academic year 2024-2025

Since last September, our staff have been working incredibly hard to improve our school to ensure that we provide a much-improved offer to your child. We have:

- ✓ Developed a vision for our school 'To ensure all students are School Ready, Work Ready, Life Ready'
- ✓ Developed our RAISE values – Respect, Aspiration, Independence, Success & Engagement
- ✓ Brought primary & secondary into Lichfield, creating Staffordshire's first 'all-aged' PRU on one site
- ✓ Developed a brand-new curriculum for students to clearly set out what they will learn & when
- ✓ Ensured high quality teaching & learning strategies used across all subjects
- ✓ Developed the right SEND provision for each child in our school
- ✓ Created higher expectations for behaviour through 'The Bridge Way'
- ✓ Embedding routines such as Line Up, Entry, Dismissal & Learning in Lessons
- ✓ Recruited a brand-new, brilliant staff team of Leaders, Teachers and Learning Support Staff
- ✓ Refurbished much of our building with many more exciting projects to come over the summer
- ✓ Introduced iPads for every child, in every lesson.

We also know, we have lots to do. Next year, we are focussed on Developing Teaching; Inclusion & Attendance. I shared these with our staff in our July INSET day, and we will share of key priorities with students in September. They have an important role to ensure that our school becomes 'Outstanding'.

Friday Update Newsletter

Since the Easter Holidays, we have been producing weekly newsletters, which we call 'Friday Updates'. These weekly updates celebrate the amazing things that have happened in our school, as well as sharing really important information. Please keep an eye on your emails for this to be sent to you. Previous editions can be found on our website - <https://thebridgeacademy.atlp.org.uk/newsletters/>.

Timings of the school day, term dates & planned INSET days

We have had a successful year for learning, offering a more balanced timetable that students have told us they prefer. We are not making any changes to this, so the same timetable will also be in place next year.

I would like to draw your attention to breakfast club, where we offer a **FREE** breakfast for all students, from 9am, so students are ready for their learning to start from 09:30. We expect students to be **Here, On time, Ready to learn, Every day**. I have also attached the Bridge Academy School Term Dates & INSET Days planned for next academic year. I would like to politely remind you that families should not be taking holidays in term-time, and from September 2025, we will be fining families that do so, as a matter of routine. For your information, following timetable is in place for our **primary students**:

Monday to Thursday	Information for students	Friday	Information for students
09:00 – 09:25	Arrival & FREE Breakfast club	09:00 – 09:25	Arrival & FREE Breakfast club
09:30 – 12:00	Learning; Play & Break	09:30 – 12:00	Learning; Play & Break
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch / PE	12:00 – 12:30	Lunch / PE
12:30 – 14:00	Learning & Play	12:30 – 13:00	Reward
14:00	Home Time	13:00	Home Time
14:00 – 14:15	REFLECTION (if needed)	13:00 – 14:15	REFLECTION (if needed)

The following timetable is in place for our **secondary students**:

Monday to Thursday	Information for students	Friday	Information for students
09:00 – 09:25	Arrival & FREE Breakfast club	09:00 – 09:25	Arrival & FREE Breakfast club
09:25 – 09:30	Morning Line-Up	09:25 – 09:30	Morning Line-Up
09:30 – 12:15	Lessons (with break at 11:15)	09:30 – 11:00	Lessons (with break at 10:45)
12:15 – 13:30	Widening Horizons/Enrichment	11:00 – 11:30	Whole-School Assembly
13:30 – 14:00	Lunchtime	11:30 – 12:30	Reward Afternoon
14:00	Afternoon Line Up & Dismissal	12:30 – 13:00	Lunchtime
14:00 – 14:15	REFLECTION (if needed)	13:00	Afternoon Line Up & Dismissal
		13:00 – 14:15	REFLECTION (if needed)

Academic curriculum for students in Years 10 and 11

This academic year, we trialled additional time allocated to English & Maths each week, as well as a Guided GCSE Choice. We also offered Duke of Edinburgh to students as a trial. Our evaluation has proved that this was a very successful model, therefore we are making this permanent to our students who will be in Years 10 and 11 from September. Therefore, our morning lessons will be a core offer of English, Maths, Science, PSHE & Art. Each afternoon will be targeted activities that students in KS4 must attend.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y11	Duke of Edinburgh	Maths	Option Block (Art, Sport or PE)	English	Reward
Y10	Edinburgh	English		Maths	Afternoon

Staggered Induction & Return in September

To ensure that our school is ready, and our staff are prepared, we have made the following induction arrangements for our students in September:

Date	Students IN school	Students NOT IN school
Mon 1 st Sept	INSET day 1 – staff in school <u>only</u>	
Tue 2 nd Sept	INSET day 2 – staff in school <u>only</u>	
Wed 3 rd Sept	Group A (Y11), Group F (KS2) & Group G (KS1) from 11:30am	Group B (Y10), Group C (KS3); Group D (KS3); Group E (KS3)
Thu 4 th Sept	Group A (Y11), Group B (Y10), Group F (KS2) & Group G (KS1)	Group C (KS3); Group D (KS3); Group E (KS3)
Fri 5 th Sept	All groups in school	
All students will be in, full time, from Monday 8 th September.		

You will find a specific letter attached to this, which shares with you what your specific child's group will be. For students that are brought to and from school in Taxi's, they have already been informed of these arrangements.

Uniform

Our students are our ambassadors at our school and in the community. We have a uniform to ensure our students are School Ready, Work Ready & Life Ready, and we expect students to wear their uniform with pride, on the way to school, in school and on the way home. So, you are aware, we provide students – **free of charge** – the Blue Bridge polo shirt & jumper. If your child needs any additional Blue Bridge uniform, please call 01543 255872 and speak to Mrs Dolan or Mrs Robb.

- **Blue** polo shirt with Bridge Academy Logo & Values embroidered
- **Blue** jumper with Bridge Academy Logo & Values embroidered
- **Black** school trousers / joggers / leggings (**one pair only**)
- **Black** school skirt or shorts, with the end of the skirt no higher than one handspan above the knee.
Trousers and skirts must not be skintight; jeans; or any other colour than Black.
- **Black** school shoes, or plain **black** trainers
- No jewellery can be worn including large necklaces or bracelets, except for piercings.

At the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team, the following can happen:

- A plain **black** / **blue** t-shirt can be worn under a **Blue** Bridge polo shirt where the logo is rubbing. Students must never walk around school without the **Blue** polo shirt or jumper. Students who do not follow this rule, will not be allowed to wear a top underneath.
- A pair of **black** shorts may be worn under the trousers. Only one pair of trousers must be always worn. Students who do not follow this rule, will not be allowed to wear shorts underneath.
- Face / ear piercings can be worn, if it is not dangerous.
- 'Fake' nails may be worn, but not overly long or dangerous.

Attachments that require your attention

I have enclosed two parental consent letters, one relating to use of photography, and one relating to local area extra-curricular activities. I would be grateful if you could complete these letters and return them to the Academy in the new academic year. To make life easier, we have included links & a scan-able QR code on each letter, so you can complete the forms, without the need to return the paper form.

Finally... Happy Holidays!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in The Bridge Academy over the last academic year. I am incredibly proud to be the Head of The Bridge, and I am amazed by what our students, and staff, have achieved. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a wonderful, restful & safe summer break. We very much look forward to welcoming your child back into school in September.

Yours faithfully



Elliot Payne
Head of School

The Bridge Academy School Term Dates & Inset Days 2025-26

Autumn Term

Training Day (**staff only**) Monday 1st September 2025

Training Day (**staff only**) Tuesday 2nd September 2025

School Opens Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Training Day (**staff only**) Friday 24th October 2025

October Half Term Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

School Opens Monday 3rd November 2025

PDD **School Closed** Monday 1st December 2025

School Closes Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term

Training Day (**staff only**) Monday 5th January 2026

School Closes Friday 13th February 2026

February Half Term Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

School Opens Monday 23rd February 2026

PDD **School Closed** Monday 9th March 2026

School Closes Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holiday Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term

School Opens Monday 13th April 2026

Training Day (**staff only**) Friday 1st May 2026

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026

School Closes Friday 23rd May 2026

May Half Term Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

School Opens Monday 2nd June 2026

School Closes Friday 17th July 2026

PDD **School Closed** Monday 20th July 2026

*May be subject to alteration