



22 July 2026

End of Year Update 2025–2026

Dear Families,

As another school year comes to an end, I would like to thank you for the support you have shown The Dukeries Academy throughout the year.

The final few weeks have been some of the busiest and happiest of the year. We have celebrated our Year 7 Bridge Graduation, Sports Day, the Year 11 Prom and last week, our Academy production of *The Wizard of Oz*. We also look forward to our Celebration Assemblies and our annual Alton Towers Rewards Trip, where almost 200 pupils will be recognised for living our Academy values every day.

Although lessons are our core focus, these moments remind us that our school also offers so much more.

End of Term Arrangements

The Academy closes for the summer on **Friday 24 July**.

Pupils will finish after afternoon registration, with dismissal beginning from **1.10pm**. Full details of these arrangements were shared with families by email on **Tuesday 14 July**.

Looking Back on the Year

When I look back over the last twelve months, we can all feel proud of how far our school has come.

There is still work to do, but there is no doubt that The Dukeries Academy is moving in the right direction.

This year:

- Behaviour across the Academy has continued to improve. Lessons are calmer, classrooms are more purposeful and pupils are more focused on learning. Negative behaviour points have reduced by almost **20%**, while positive recognition has increased by **55%**. That tells me more pupils are making the right choices every day.
- The quality of teaching continues to strengthen. We have had our most stable staffing year for some time, which means pupils have benefited from greater consistency.
- We were pleased that Ofsted recognised the improvements taking place across the Academy. This reflects the progress we have made together and tells us that the areas we are striving to improve are the right ones.

Focus Next Year – Attendance

If there is one area where we need everyone's help next year, it is attendance.

Although we have completed detailed intervention, offered extensive support and communicated on this regularly, attendance has fallen slightly this year.

Quite simply, children cannot benefit from the improvements we are making if they are not in school. Every lesson matters. Every day matters.

We know that pupils who attend regularly make better progress, achieve stronger GCSE results and have greater opportunities later in life. At The Dukeries, pupils who attend school at least **95% of the time consistently achieve above the national average at GCSE.**

Attendance Figures		Academic Year	National Average Grade	DUK Average Grade – 95% Attendance+
2024-2025	89.2%	2025	4.6	4.8
2025-2026	88.8%	2024	4.59	5.0

We know that illness and family circumstances sometimes make attendance difficult, and we will always work with families where support is needed. However, where children are well enough to attend school, we ask that they are here every day. It really does make a difference.

Helping every child attend regularly is something we can only achieve together.

Year 11 Results Day

Year 11 Results Day is taking place on **Thursday 20 August**, where we welcome back our wonderful Year 11 pupils to collect what we hope will be a positive set of outcomes for them. The site will open at **9.30am** to collect GCSE results and this will take place in the downstairs of what is now the Inclusion Centre.

Staffing Changes

At the end of this year, we say goodbye to valued colleagues.

I would like to thank Mr Nabbs and Mrs Else for everything they have contributed to The Dukeries Academy over the past few years. We wish them every success in the future.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome several new colleagues to our team. They bring a wealth of experience and will help us continue improving the education we provide for every child.

Staff Leaving	Staff Joining	Changes of Roles
Mr Nabbs – Raising Standards Leader and Teacher of Maths Mrs Else - SENCO	Mr Babatunde – Teacher of Science Mr Bagg – Teacher of Science Mrs Clarke – Raising Standards Leader and Teacher of Maths Miss Donovan – Teacher of Music Mr Elford – Campus Manager	Mr Iddon – Head of Year Mrs Oliver - SENCO



September Arrangements

Tuesday 1 September will be a staff training day.

Pupils will return as follows:

- **Wednesday 2 September** – Year 7 and Year 11
- **Thursday 3 September** – All year groups

Going Again in September

At the beginning of every September, we spend time helping pupils settle back into school and reminding everyone of the high standards we expect.

We revisit our routines, expectations and Academy values so that every child gets off to the best possible start. This includes ensuring pupils arrive every day in the correct uniform, with the right equipment and ready to learn.

Our aim is simple: calm classrooms where teachers can teach and pupils can learn without disruption.

Over the summer, please take a few moments to check uniform and equipment so that your child is fully prepared for September. Information about uniform requirements is available on our website here: [Uniform Policies](#) and reminders will also be shared through our social media channels.

Our Standards Gate will continue to operate each morning from 8.30am to help ensure every pupil begins the day ready for learning.

Finally

Thank you once again for your continued support this year. The level of progress we are making is a result of your engagement and help.

I hope you and your family have a safe, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year.

Kind regards,



Mr M Brett
Principal

