SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER





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TOP NEWS

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In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

HEAD OF SCHOOL WELCOME

As we approach the summer, I would like to thank all staff and parents for the support and encouragement you have given our young people at Lightcliffe Academy. We have achieved much together this year and I firmly believe that our young people can and will go on to achieve great things.

I am immensely proud of how far we have come as a school and our achievements in securing a 'Good' in all four areas of the Ofsted framework. I am also extremely proud of the ongoing feedback in both external and Trust reviews this year where good practice has continued to be highlighted in our subjects and SHARED character curriculum, as well as our safeguarding, behaviour and attendance practices.

This term has been an eventful one, and in this newsletter, you will be able to read all about the events and trips that have taken place. I am particularly proud of our student leaders who organised and ran our second Lightcliffe Academy Diversity Day in July. There were opportunities to learn about the protected characteristics and to raise money for charities that support people who have protected characteristics themselves, such as physical disabilities. Many of our leaders have also been involved in supporting transition activities to welcome our new Year 7 pupils next year. They are great examples of our SHARED character values when they are lived out through words and actions.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting classes where Year 7 students were participating in a forensic science day, accessing their learning in a very hands-on, practical way to solve a 'crime'. I also enjoyed watching our young people engage with sports day, demonstrating great resilience, in spite of the very hot temperatures. However, the highlight of this week was hosting a visiting writer who spoke to Year 9 and Year 10 about his expeditions to Everest. Students engaged well with the workshops following this and wrote some incredibly powerful narratives. We have great talent at Lightcliffe!

Over the summer holidays, there will be further improvements to the academy site with a canopy being installed outside where students will be able to sit in all weathers.

02

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HEAD OF SCHOOL WELCOME

We are also having more carpets fitted in E block so that the academy feels warm and welcoming in those areas. I also look forward to our caterers hosting more taster sessions in the dining hall so that students can try new foods and cuisine from across the globe. Student feedback about our school dinners has been very positive, and I am keen to ensure the food offer continues to be enjoyable, nutritious and exciting.

On the 18th September, we will be holding our annual Open Evening, and I would like to invite parents and families into the academy even if you do not currently have a child in primary school.

I would like to wish all students, parents and staff a lovely summer and I look forward to welcoming your child back in September. Thank you again for your ongoing support; it is much appreciated.

Jo Hackett Head of School

OPEN EVENING



03

Year 7

As we reach the end of Year 7, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic year of growth, learning, and new experiences. For many students, this was their first year of secondary school—a year full of firsts, new subjects, new friends, and new challenges. I couldn't be prouder of the way our Year 7s have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and resilience.

From their first day navigating timetables and finding their way around school, to taking part in clubs, trips, performances, and sports events, they've shown maturity beyond their years. It's been a joy to watch them grow not only academically, but also in confidence and character. A huge thank you to all the staff and families who've supported the students so consistently throughout the year. Your encouragement has made a real difference.

To our wonderful Year 7s: have a restful, well-earned summer break. Come back refreshed and ready for Year 8—your journey is only just beginning!

Miss Almas - Year 7 Leader

Year 8

As we reach the end of this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect and celebrate some of the things we have achieved together as a year group this year.

We have had some amazing sports performances this year from our girl's and boys' rugby and football teams.

Year 8 students also did us proud at the recent athletics event and a massive well done to all students who represented their form groups in the recent Sports day. The winners will be revealed in assembly on Friday.

Special recognition to Holden Forrester and Halimat Bell as they have made a great effort in PE this year.

Year 8 students completed some assessments, towards the end of the year . It was commented on by the invigilators how well year 8's had behaved whilst entering the hall and how mature they were throughout the assessment process. Well done, I was very proud of you all.

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04

A group of our Year 8 drama club students received runner up in their category in the Arts Outreach competition that was held at the University of Leeds. Special mention to Leon Muszynski, Eva Jane Rossiter, Mitchell Teale, Quinn Clay and Zeenat Bibi. Well done, you are all amazing. What a great achievement.

The year 8's have attended some trips this year including Normandy and cinema trips for the Zero Hero students. I was lucky enough to go on the Flamingo land, end of year trip. The students behaved impeccably, and a great time was had by all. We have some very daring students in year 8.

We recently had an employment fayre in school. The businesses, colleges and Universities stated that the students had asked lots of questions and were very mature. They gave special recognition to the year 8 students as they all seemed very interested and behaved very well. It was a great opportunity to start conversations about the future and the types of careers our young people would like to go into. I was surprised by how many of you already know what they want to do after school from Beautician to footballer to the armed forces.

There have been so many more achievements this year some big, some small and some as part of a team and some personal so well done to everybody.

It has been a privilege to be the head of year 8 and I look forward to welcoming you all back in year 9.

Stay safe and have an amazing break.

Miss Grogan - Year 8 Leader

Year 9

It's been a very eventful half term with our trip to Normandy in France for both year 8 and 9. This trip is an amazing opportunity for the students to take part in and learn many different aspects of history as well. The behaviour from all the students who went on the trip was exemplary and a real credit to you as their parents/carers as well as us as a school. We received a lot of positive feedback from other people about their behaviour on the trip as well which is always lovely to hear.

We've had so many sporting opportunities in the year group recently as well with golf at Crow Nest, athletics tournaments and our very own sports day. It's lovely to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment the students get from taking part in these events and of course the winning as well.

We had our rewards trip to Blackpool as well which was lovely and I know the students really enjoyed themselves. It is always worth the wait by maintaining the high standards we expect in order to be part of these trips.

A huge thank you to the 12 students who went to help out at Lightcliffe Primary School last week. This event had been cancelled at very short notice a few weeks. The feedback we received was lovely - the best year group ever to help out at this event. It makes me extremely proud to be their year leader.

I would like to wish you all a lovely summer. I hope everyone gets some rest and recuperation in readiness for Key Stage 4 and the final two years of their school life at Lightcliffe Academy. I look forward to seeing everyone return in September.

Mrs Rothery - Year 9 Leader

Year 10

As we come to the end of what has been a busy and important year 10, I wanted to reflect on the progress, challenges and achievements Year 10 have experienced over the past 12 months.

They have shown real resilience - adapting to the demands of GCSEs and pushing through challenges with determination and focus. I am so proud of each and every one of them. Their contribution to school life has been fantastic.

I have also been incredibly proud of the respect students have shown to each other, staff and the wider community, they represented the year group brilliantly.

Looking ahead to Year 11, the focus naturally shifts towards revision, exams, and planning for the future. I know this year group is more than capable of rising to the challenge.

I would like to thank all parents/carers for your continued support, and I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer break. I look forward to seeing everyone back in September, ready to take on the final year with confidence.

Mrs Richardson - Year 10 Leader

Year 11

As their time at Lightcliffe Academy comes to an end, I would like to say a massive well done to all year 11 students. Given this year group began their time at high school in the midst of a pandemic, they remained resilient and have been amazing, it has been an honour and a privilege to be their head of year for their time at Lightcliffe!

There are so many young people in year 11 who have overcome so many barriers and I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments. I also want to extend a massive thank you to the parents who have worked with school and have been incredibly supportive in helping their child to achieve.

I wish Year 11 all the luck in the world with their future and look forward to hearing about their achievements.

Mr Greenwood - Year 11 Leader

ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTORS

KS3

This half term the Yr8 and 9 students went on the Normandy trip and had a fantastic time. Staff were impressed by their enthusiasm and maturity and all students appreciated the learning and cultural opportunities it provided.

We welcomed the Yr6s for their Transition day last Friday and the student leaders from KS3 were an integral part in the running of the day, ensuring Yr6s knew exactly where they were going, and they offered support to the more nervous students. Staff commented that they were 'absolutely superb!'.

Diversity day, which took place on the same day as Transition was a great success and, again, our amazing student leaders along with Mr Cross, helped to plan and run the afternoon which saw lots of money raised, with face painting, baking stalls and a sponge the teacher fundraiser - students thoroughly enjoyed this!

We are looking forward to the celebration assemblies next week, where we can look at the half term and year's achievements before we head into the summer break. Wishing all students a very happy and safe summer.

Ms Storah- KS3 Achievement Director

KS4

Year 10

Year 10 have had a really busy half term! They have taken part in their Ambition Week where they had the opportunity to speak to a range of different employers, colleges and sixth forms at our careers fair and start to think about and make decisions about what they want to do when they leave Lightcliffe, they also have had CV writing and interview skills lessons to support them in writing their job applications.

Along with Ambition Week some Year 10 students have had the opportunity to go on trips to Hornsea, Liverpool and Blackpool, I was lucky enough to go along on all of these trips, students' behaviour was exemplary. I have sent some commutation to all parents about how to help support students over summer to ensure they are maintaining focus with revision ready for their Year 11 mocks in November.

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ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTORS

Year 11

This half term we said goodbye to our y11s. I would just like to say a huge well done to all of the students, they have all worked so hard and displayed amazing resiliance throughout their exam period. I hope students have a restful summer before starting their new adventures in the Autumn.

Miss Kanue - KS4 Achievement Director

GCSE HOMEWORK TIMELADIE					
Week A					
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
Option D	Option B	Maths	Science	English	
Week B					
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	Option C	Maths	Science	Option A	
BTEC/CNAT subjects may not set homework during PSA's/internally assessed units.					

GCSE Homework Timetable

YEAR 11				
Week A				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	English	Maths	Option B	Science
Week B				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	Option A	Maths	Option C	Science
BTEC / CNAT Subjects may not set homework during PSA's / internally assessed				
units				

An Unforgettable Journey to Normandy: June 12–17

From June 12th to 17th, 150 of our Year 8 and Year 9 students embarked on an unforgettable six-day educational and cultural trip to Normandy, France. The itinerary was packed with enriching activities, historical learning, and moments of genuine fun and friendship that left a lasting impression on all who attended.

Exploring History Where It Happened

One of the most moving parts of the trip was our visit to the American and British military cemeteries, where students had the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made during World War II. This was followed by a powerful experience at the 360° War Cinema in Arromanches, where panoramic film footage and real wartime imagery brought the events of D-Day to life in an immersive way.

"My favourite moment in Normandy was visiting the 360 War Cinema. It gave me a real sense of what people went through during the war." – Leon, Year 8

We also explored the Bayeux Tapestry, an extraordinary piece of medieval storytelling and a vital part of understanding European history. Students were fascinated by how the story of the Norman Conquest was preserved in such a unique way.

The Bayeux market offered a taste of local life, where students could interact with French vendors, try local foods, and practice their language skills in an authentic setting.

Adventure, Culture, and Camaraderie

The trip wasn't all history—there was plenty of time for fun too! A highlight for many was the exhilarating Normandie Luge, where students enjoyed racing down the tracks surrounded by the stunning French countryside.

"My favourite part of France was when we went on the luge. We had so much fun and I really enjoyed it!" - Jakey, Year 9

Our final stop was the beautiful fishing town of Honfleur, with its cobbled streets, charming harbour, and vibrant atmosphere. Students explored the town, took in the picturesque views, and had time to relax and reflect on a week of shared experiences.

"The best part of the trip was simply being with all my friends and having an amazing time." - Frankie, Year 8



NORMANDY TRIP

A Trip to Remember

This trip was more than just a getaway—it was an opportunity for students to engage deeply with history, culture, and each other. The staff were incredibly proud of how the students conducted themselves, showing curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm throughout the journey.

We thank all the staff members who organised and supported this experience and to our students for making it so memorable. Normandy 2025 will be remembered as one of the year's true highlights.

Mr Cross - Assistant Principal of Personal Development

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As student leaders, leadership is a very important role not only to us but to every student at Lightcliffe Academy. We show our leadership skills by having meetings every so often to plan exciting events for all students to take part in and enjoy. For example, diversity day which all student leaders took part in.

We did some very enjoyable stalls such as: A bake sale, face painting, guess the sweets in the jar, glitter stall, penalty shoot outs , sponge the teacher and the cup game which all the students loved to take part in. Not only did all students enjoy this event we raised money for charity! Next year we will be planning even better events that all the new year 7s will enjoy.

Lightcliffe Academy is an amazing school for leadership and taking part in everything it has to offer. All our fellow student leaders always enjoy these activities in school and always are willing to help anybody!

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Sinead and Martha, Year 7

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy and successful school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate all that we've achieved together – and share some important safeguarding reminders to help keep our children safe and well over the summer break.

2024–2025 has been a year to be proud of. Some highlights include:

- ★ Excellent reviews from both our internal school assessments and external visits – with safeguarding consistently identified as a real strength.
- **Y** A thriving culture of care, inclusion, and respect, underpinned by our committed staff, student leadership, and family support.
- E A wide range of successful events, trips, and learning opportunities that have helped our pupils flourish socially, emotionally, and academically.

Thank you for the part you've played in making this such a positive year. Your engagement and regular communication has made a real difference.



Online Safety: Please click on the poster to view full size

Safeguarding: Summer Reminders for Parents and Carers

Online Safety

- Encourage regular conversations about who your child is talking to online.
- Check privacy settings and parental controls on devices and apps.
- Remind them never to share personal information or photos with strangers.

🕍 Staying Safe Out and About

- Make sure your child knows how to contact you or another trusted adult.
- Set clear expectations around where they're going, who they'll be with, and when they should return home.

P Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Summer is a great time to unwind, but routines help. Try to maintain regular sleep, meals, and screen-time boundaries.
- Look out for signs your child may be feeling anxious, isolated, or overwhelmed, and reassure them you're there to listen and support.

Remember: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have any concerns about a child's safety over the break, you can contact:

- Local Safeguarding Team in Calderdale and Bradford <u>https://safeguarding.calderdale.gov.uk/</u> and <u>https://www.bradford.gov.uk/adult-social-</u> <u>care/adult-abuse/report-adult-abuse/</u>
- School (emails will be checked periodically)
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Childline (for children): 0800 1111 or childline.org.uk

ATTENDANCE

As part of the Department for Education's working together to improve school attendance guidance we have been working closely with the Local Authority and other agencies to help support our young people and their families to help improve school attendance.

As we reach the end of a fantastic school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the progress our school community has made in improving attendance, and to thank you for your ongoing support.

✓ A Year of Positive Change

Improving attendance has been one of our key priorities this year - and thanks to a strong partnership between school, families, and pupils, we've seen a marked improvement across the board.

- II Overall attendance has increased compared to the previous year, with many students achieving or exceeding their personal attendance targets.
- X growing number of pupils have reached 96% attendance or above, and we've seen fewer persistent absences across all key stages.
- *H* These improvements reflect the hard work, commitment, and resilience of our families and staff.

💬 What Ofsted Said

We were especially proud to have our efforts recognised in our most recent Ofsted inspection. Inspectors noted:

"Leaders are taking clear and proactive steps to improve attendance, working closely with families to address barriers."

– Ofsted Report, September 2024

This is a powerful reflection of our community's shared commitment to making every school day count.

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ATTENDANCE

As part of the Department for Education's working together to improve school attendance guidance we have been working closely with the Local Authority and other agencies to help support our young people and their families to help improve school attendance.

Still Work to Do

While we've made great strides, our attendance is still not at the levels we saw before COVID, and we know there is more to do. Every missed day is a missed opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

That's why improving attendance will remain a key focus going into the 2025-26 academic year. We will:

- Continue working closely with families to overcome attendance barriers.
- Recognise and celebrate good attendance.
- Offer targeted support to those who need it.
- Communicate clearly and consistently about expectations.

📅 A Message for the Summer

Good routines don't start in September - they begin now. As we head into the holidays, please:

- Try to maintain regular sleep and morning routines.
- Plan holidays outside of term time.
- Speak with your child about the importance of being ready and excited for school in September.

🔽 Thank You

We are proud of the progress we've made together, and even more excited about what we can achieve in the year ahead. With your continued support, we know we can close the gap and build an even stronger culture of attendance in our school.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and restful summer.

Mr Drury - Vice Principal of Pastoral

ATTENDANCE

As part of the Department for Education's working together to improve school attendance guidance we have been working closely with the Local Authority and other agencies to help support our young people and their families to help improve school attendance.

Holidays in Term Time

Pupils are not allowed to take holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is very rare that any holiday would be authorised. Good attendance is key to pupils making good progress and taking time out to go on holiday can significantly hamper progress. Therefore, we request that no child takes holiday during term time.

You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without the school's permission.

For the DfE statutory guidance on school attendance, please visit: <u>https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence</u>



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's Science and SHARED.

Science

A Message from the Head of Department

As the academic year comes to a close, it's a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on the work happening across the Science department. This year, our students have benefited from consistency, high expectations, and a renewed sense of energy in lessons. It's been fantastic to see practical work, curiosity, and scientific discussion return in full force.

Year 7 have recently taken part in our much-anticipated Forensic Science Day – an exciting challenge designed to test the investigative and analytical skills they've developed throughout the year. It was brilliant to see them apply what they've learned to a real-world context, with enthusiasm and growing confidence.

Year 8 have now completed the Key Stage 3 Science curriculum and will progress into a focused transition year. This hybrid of KS3 and GCSE content is designed to strengthen their scientific understanding and build the skills needed for success in their future GCSE studies. It marks an important step forward, and we'll be setting high expectations from the start to ensure students make the most of the opportunity.

Year 9 have now officially transitioned into the GCSE course and are ready to hit the ground running. We'll begin the new year by tackling some fundamental concepts that underpin scientific principles – the kind of core knowledge that will be key to long-term success.

For Year 10, it's been a crucial period of consolidation. As we look ahead, a focused and committed start in September will be essential, particularly with an early round of mock exams on the horizon. We'll be challenging students to rise to this and show just how far they've come.





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SPOTLIGHT ON...

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To our wonderful Year 11 students – good luck for everything that lies ahead. It's been a real pleasure teaching and supporting you, and we're proud of your hard work and determination. Whatever your next steps, we hope science stays with you – whether in career, conversation or curiosity.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all parents and carers for your support, communication, and encouragement throughout the year. It makes a genuine difference. We look forward to continuing this partnership next year as we build an even stronger science offer for all students.

Wishing you all a restful and well-earned summer.

Mr Davies, Achievement Director of Science

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's Science and SHARED.

SHARED

Our SHARED Curriculum at Lightcliffe: Preparing Students for Life, Not Just Exams

This year we have transformed our PSHE education into a well-planned and well-sequenced SHARED curriculum that places Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World at the heart of our students' learning journey. This transformation reflects our commitment to nurturing not only academic success but the development of resilient, empathetic, and socially conscious individuals.

Our revised curriculum focusses on topics such as:

- · Mental health and healthy lifestyle choices
- · Respectful relationships, consent and inclusion
- · Financial literacy and careers

We aim to equip every student with the tools they need to manage their wellbeing and thrive both in and outside the classroom. Through a strong emphasis on oracy across our subject, we help students develop the confidence and communication skills that enhance their future opportunities beyond school. This foundation empowers young people to become confident decision-makers, ready to contribute meaningfully to society. We're looking forward to building on our SHARED curriculum next year as we watch our students excel in our talk-rich subject!

Mrs Watson - Head of SHARED



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PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Drama & Music

As part of the recent year 10 ambition week we were privileged to receive a visit from three performers from the &Piano Music Festival. Featuring Neil Balfour (vocalist), Issy Hayley-Porteous (flute), and Christopher Pulleyn (piano) the group performed a number of pieces, all the way from the Baroque to modern musicals.

As part of the workshop the three musicians talked about their rehearsal process and how they shape a performance. Pupils were asked about how elements such as tempo, pitch and dynamics created different moods.

By changing one or more of these elements they were able to show the audience how music can create different moods by using the same element in a different way. This mirrors some of the work done by pupils when creating their own compositions and performances in musical theatre

To hear some of the music performed by &Piano please scan the Spotify code below with the Spotify app on your phone. Alternatively you can scan the QR code below and see their performances on YouTube.





PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Media

We have had an exciting and creative year in Media Studies. Students have conducted research, presented findings and delved into the Sci-Fi genre for their component 1. Students have also completed component 2 in which they responded to an industry brief by creating their very own products including magazines and video tutorials. Their work was impressive and showed great creativity and professional finish.

To finish off the year we are working on our final, very exciting, project...our own music videos! Students have taken inspiration from existing videos, learnt camera angles, techniques and genre conventions and are filming and editing their music videos ready for our end of year awards.

Next year will see them complete their final component which will pull together all of the research, theories and skills we have been working on this year.

Mr West - Head of Music and Media

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SPORTS UPDATE

We are really proud of all our students across Years 7-10 who took part in the Calderdale Athletics Championships at Princess Mary Stadium last week. All students were superb in their events, demonstrating a positive attitude and resilience throughout, particularly given the hot weather conditions. We came away with many placings, here are our top Bronze, Silver and Gold medal winners - A huge well done!

Hollie P - 2nd shot put Sophie C - 1st long jump Dolly C - 1st 100m Harley C - 1st Javelin Maddison O - 3rd Long Jump Maddison O - 2nd 200m Ruby F - 3rd 100m Caya F - 1st Javelin Louie B - 3rd High Jump Holden - 3rd 200m Sophie C - 2nd 200m Y8 boys - 3rd in Relay



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On the 6th June, our Year 9s completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Over the course of the weekend the students were exemplary with numerous members of the public commenting on their behaviour and politeness when walking.

They had to endure a night and second day of pouring down rain but that did not dampen their spirits as they finished strongly at Saltaire Train Station.

Well done to everyone that took part in the expedition.

COMMUNITY NEWS



love of dance and creativity goes a long way! As you're taking your first steps, you'll learn how to move gracefully with the five pieces of apparatus (the hoop, the ribbon, the ball, the rope and the clubs). As your skills improve you'll start at the step approximation of the step of the step

improve, you'll start putting more complex moves together into mesmerising floor routines. If you want, you can take

Please click the posters to view full size

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Lightcliffe Academy Newsletter

Ball

Clubs





CATERING

Free School Meals

- Save up to £450 per child per year by taking up the Free School Meals offer
- Some families are entitled to Free School Meals. Once registered, your child's dinner card would be topped up automatically each day.
- Totally private, totally automated.
- Even if you do not wish to use the Free School Meal Service, being registered allows the school to access more funding per student

<u>Free School Meals | Bradford Council</u> <u>Free School Meals - Calderdale</u> <u>Lightcliffe Academy catering</u>



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 18 th July	School Closes - 12.30pm
Monday 1 st September	School Closed - Staff Training Day
Tuesday 2 nd September	School Open - Y7 Only
Wednesday 3 rd Spetember	School Open - Whole School
Thursday 18 th September	Open Evening

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