



**Stockport Academy**

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you at the end of a very busy year at the academy that has seen much change. There is still change ahead and much of it will focus on what we need to do to continue to improve the quality of education and experience for all our students.

Please find enclosed our final newsletter of the year containing, amongst many other things, details of our successful Ofsted inspection.

Following the inspection, we will ensure that the academy:

- Continues to improve the quality of teaching and learning and raise the attainment of all students
- Introduces a wider range of enrichment activities across the day and at weekends
- Improves the support it provides students with special educational needs
- Improves its communication and involvement with parents and carers
- Raises the average attendance of its students
- Improves the effectiveness of the Sixth Form

### **Changes to the Academy Day**

As part of our efforts to improve the offer and quality of enrichment activities at the academy, as well as continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning, from September we will be changing to five one hour lessons a day, followed by the opportunity for your child to take part in a wide range of activities every Monday-Thursday.

The structure of the new academy day from September will be as follows:

All students to arrive at the academy at 8.45am	<b>Period 1</b>	<b>Period 2</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Period 3</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
	<b>8.50 - 9.50</b>	<b>9.50 - 10.50</b>	<b>10.50 - 11.05</b>	<b>11.05- 12.05</b>	<b>12.05 – 13.05</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Period 5</b>	<b>Lessons finish at 15.10</b>	<b>Period 6 (50 mins)</b>	<b>Period 7</b>
<b>13.05–13.40</b>	<b>13.45-14.10</b>	<b>14.10-15.10</b>		<b>Enrichment (Mon – Thur) 15.10 – 16.00</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Form 16.00 – 17.00</b>

However, from 31<sup>st</sup> October, we are proposing a change of start and finish to the academy day that will require all students to be on site by 8.30am. Lessons will finish at 2.40pm with enrichment activities being completed by 3.30pm. Full details of the proposed changes are shown below:

<b>Registration</b>	<b>Period 1</b>	<b>Period 2</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Period 3</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
	<b>8.50 - 9.50</b>	<b>9.50 - 10.50</b>	<b>10.50 - 11.05</b>	<b>11.05- 12.05</b>	<b>12.05 – 13.05</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Period 5</b>	<b>Lessons finish at 14.40</b>		<b>Period 6 (50 mins)</b>	<b>Period 7</b>
<b>13.05–13.40</b>	<b>13.40-14.40</b>			<b>Enrichment (Mon – Thur) 14.40 – 15.30</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Form 15.30 – 16.30</b>

The earlier start will ensure students are able to have their lunch at 1.05pm and support a registration period at the start of the day. It also means our students will be leaving the academy site following their enrichment experience at 3.30pm.

Staff are supportive of this change and a final decision will be made following an eight week period of consultation from the date of this letter with parents. Please could you forward your support or concerns to the academy in writing or via the following e-mail address:

**[changestotheacademyday@stockport-academy.org](mailto:changestotheacademyday@stockport-academy.org)**

### **Start of the New Term**

I would like to remind you that all students are due back in the academy on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am.**

Our new Year 7 students are required to attend the academy on the afternoon of **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September from 12.30pm–3.10pm** in full school uniform. Their new ties will be provided free of charge during the afternoon. Our caterers will also be providing a free cooked lunch for all Year 7 students. We want to encourage all our students to choose the cooked meal options from our caterers which I believe offer not only a healthy option but also great value for money.

### **Homework**

Your child will be given a student planner in which they will be expected to record the homework set for each subject area.

It is vital that your child uses the student planner on a daily basis and it is out on their desk during every lesson. Homework set during the lesson must be recorded (i.e. what is set and on what date it is due back in school). Also, where no homework is required, this must also be recorded for an accurate picture.

### **Attendance**

It is expected that all students will have a **100%** attendance record. We discourage any absences during term time as it will affect your child's progress and future success.

Attendance will be closely monitored by the Progress Leader for each year group who will contact you to discuss any issues. From September, the Progress Leaders for each year group will be:

**Year 7: Jessica Taylor**

**Year 8: Eloise Martin**

**Year 9: Catherine Archer**

**Year 10: Matthew Sumner**

**Year 11: Jonathan Hartley**

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility - parents, students and all members of school staff.

The academy will give you details on your child's attendance in regular Home-Academy communications and via our website. We will report to you at least half-termly on how your child is performing in school, what their attendance and punctuality rate is and how this relates to their attainment.

We will celebrate good attendance by displaying individual and class achievements and reward good or improving attendance through class competitions, certificates and outings/events.

We will also sanction students for poor punctuality by recording the number of minutes 'lost' during the week because of a late arrival to the academy or to lessons and ensuring that this time is made up on a Friday afternoon.

## Return from Absence

If your child has been absent for any reason, please will you send in a letter to the Form Tutor on the day they return, covering reason for absence.

## What to do if your child is absent or has an appointment

If your child is ill, please contact the Attendance Officer on **0161 286 0330** before **9.30am** on each day of absence. Please leave the student's name, their Form Group, your name and the reason for absence. Alternatively, you can email **pat.baldwin-teleki@stockport-academy.org** on each day of absence.

If your child has a dental or medical appointment, where possible please arrange these for outside school hours. If appointments are within school hours, please forward a letter of request or appointment card detailing the absence, prior to the absence taking place to your child's Form Tutor.

## Holidays

In line with Government guidelines we can no longer authorise requests for holidays during term time. These absences are closely monitored by the Education Welfare Service and may be liable to an Education Penalty fine. Therefore, please try where possible to take holidays outside of term time. If this is not possible, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If there are specific reasons for a holiday request within term time, please write to the Principal stating the details for the request. The facts will be considered on an individual basis.

## Academy Uniform and Equipment

It is important that as we strive for outstanding in all that we do, our students also arrive each day at the academy looking outstanding and ready to work.

It is essential that your child wears the correct uniform and footwear on each day at the academy.

<b>BOYS:</b>	<b>GIRLS:</b>
Black school trousers	Black tailored school trousers OR knee length skirt
White shirt	White shirt
Stockport Academy blazer	Stockport Academy blazer
Stockport Academy tie	Stockport Academy tie
Academy green jumper (optional)	Academy green jumper (optional)
Plain socks – no fluorescent colours	Plain black tights/plain socks – no fluorescent colours/no leggings
Plain black school shoes NOT trainers, canvas pumps, or boots	Plain black school shoes NOT trainers, canvas pumps, dolly shoes without a strap, or boots
<b>PE KIT:</b>	<b>PE KIT:</b>
Green polo shirt with logo	Green polo shirt with logo
Black shorts	Black shorts
Trainers	Trainers
Black tracksuit (optional)	Black tracksuit (optional)

The academy uniform is a very important indicator of high standards in the Academy

## Why Have a School Uniform?

- It improves security by making it easier to identify intruders
- Gives students a pride in and a sense of belonging to the academy
- Heightens the reputation of the academy in the community
- Gives students an equality of appearance thereby discouraging competition
- Is more hardwearing and thus better value for money than other clothing
- Encourages good discipline and a work ethic amongst students

It is also important that all parents, staff and students understand and support the public image of the academy as a good school reputation supports students when they leave us to seek opportunities in further/higher education or in the world of work.

## Additional Guidelines

- All students are expected to wear all items of school uniform, including a blazer, and to be correctly dressed in, on the way to and from the academy, and at lunchtime. Students must wear blazers at all time around the academy except when permission has been given in the classroom
- All students must wear their ties up to the top button of their shirts. Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Students may not wear items of clothing that are not part of the official school uniform (apart from outer coat) without the permission of the Principal
- Students are expected to remove their outer coats at all times whilst in the school buildings
- All students are expected to bring a bag for their equipment to school each day. Equipment should include pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, planner, reading and exercise books and any other equipment needed for lessons
- Students may not have their heads shaved, (the minimum length allowed is a number two) or wear extreme hair styles/colours/fashions of any sort. If parents are unsure about any hairstyle please contact the academy.
- Jewellery: Students may wear an inexpensive watch. No body jewellery/piercing is allowed (ear, nose, tongue, lip, eyebrow, belly button etc).
- iPods or any other hand held device playing music are not to be used at any time on the academy premises and will be confiscated by staff if they are seen being used
- Mobile phones are allowed to be brought to the academy for use to and from school but must be switched off and kept securely at all times whilst on the academy premises
- Smoking is now illegal on the academy premises for everyone. Any student caught smoking will be dealt with through the school's disciplinary procedure.

**Students who come to school wearing non regulation footwear and do not have a doctor's note with a valid reason will be required to wear footwear provided by the academy.**



**\*Please note: 'Dolly shoes' without a strap are acceptable provided they come with a solid heel and sole.**

## **Enrichment**

At Stockport Academy, we want all our students to achieve their personal best.

From September, there will be a completely revised programme of enrichment activities that will seek to create a sense of belonging and pride in our academy and the wider community.

We want all our students to engage in our new and exciting enrichment programme and enjoy achieving their full potential by building new skills and deepening their involvement in the academy's curriculum areas, extra-curricular activities and opportunities to serve our local community.

From September, we will be encouraging all students to take part in a wide range of activities. Activities will be taking place before the start of the academy, during the lunch period, after the academy day and at weekends for sporting activities, day excursions and residential trips

**Your child will be planning their enrichment programme during their first week back in September, and we ask that you support this by encouraging participation when lessons have finished each day.**

## **Parents' Forum**

### **Come and Get Involved!**

The Parents' Forum is an inclusive group of parents who are committed to furthering the progress of Stockport Academy. Its aim is to achieve this by offering support, advice, skills, time and effort in driving forward initiatives to both improve the academy and promote its standing in the local community.

One of its key roles is to become involved in helping create a wide range of enrichment activities such as fun days, charity events, school trips, after school clubs, school concerts and so forth. The Parents' Forum is not an exclusive group and welcomes parents to join the forum or offer any support and assistance, however small or large.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the school directly or e-mail us. Meanwhile, if you have any concerns about issues at the academy, any ideas to improve the academy or any initiatives or skills you can offer up then please e-mail the forum at:

[parents.forum@stockport-academy.org](mailto:parents.forum@stockport-academy.org)

**We are excited about putting your ideas into action!**

## Important Dates for the Academic Year 2011/2012

Term	Academy Opens	Academy Closes
Autumn	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 7 only)	
	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September (All years)	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2011
	Half-Term Holiday 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	
	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2011	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 (early closure)
	Christmas Holiday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2011 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2012	
Spring	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 (Inset Day 3 <sup>rd</sup> January)	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
	Half-Term Holiday 13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	
	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
	Easter Holiday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	
Summer	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2012 (Inset Day 16 <sup>th</sup> April)	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012
	Half-Term Holiday 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	
	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2012 (early closure)
Public Holidays	Good Friday – 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2012 Easter Monday – 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2012 May Day – 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 Spring Bank Holiday – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2012* Extra Bank Holiday – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2012*  *Due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Spring Bank Holiday has been moved to Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2012 and an Extra Bank Holiday on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2012 has been granted. Schools are to receive the Extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Local Authority has advised schools to take the extra day as the last day of the Summer Term – this holiday will therefore be taken on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July.	
Inset Days	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 and Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2012 Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	

Finally, I would like to thank you for your time in both reading this letter and continuing to support the academy in becoming the outstanding local school we are committed to becoming. Whilst I know that we still have many things to improve upon, there is also so much to look forward to at Stockport Academy. My staff are excited about the year ahead and I look forward to seeing you regularly across the year.

Please contact me directly on [principal@stockport-academy.org](mailto:principal@stockport-academy.org) if you would like to meet me personally or discuss any issues relating to this letter or your child's continued progress and happiness at the academy.

Enjoy the summer break and we look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours sincerely



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