

31 March 2025

Dear Families

End of Term April 2025

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well and that you have a wonderful, peaceful and family filled break over the Easter period. As you will all be aware, this is my last week here at Great Academy Ashton as I move on to “pastures new” in The Lake District after Easter. I am genuinely over-the-moon to be able to confirm that Miss Deana Owen will be assuming the role of Acting Headteacher and Mrs Kim Larsen-Taylor as Associate Acting Headteacher for the summer term. Mr Matthew Little will be starting as the substantive Principal from 1st September 2025 onwards.

Please find below the details of our end of term arrangements and the arrangements for the start of the summer term on Tuesday 22nd April.

- End of Term Arrangements: School closes for the Easter break on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.05pm - please note the slightly earlier finish time.
- Start of Term Arrangements: When we return in April, we will have our traditional staggered return:
 - Tuesday 22nd April 2025; years 11,10 only in school. Normal start time.
 - Wednesday 23rd April 2025; all years all years in school. Normal start time.

The staggered return allows us to support transition back into learning and embed our high culture of engagement and expectations.

General reminders for the start of the new term

All students must wear the academy blazer and tie, their shirt tucked into their skirt or trousers and be in black shoes. If a student chooses to wear a skirt they must wear black tights. Footwear must look like a sensible Academy shoe and not be able to be mistaken for trainer. Shoes must be plain black only with no white or contrast piping. Please be aware some shops do sell black trainer type shoes within their school shoe section and this style of shoe is not permitted. As a rule, any footwear by Nike, Adidas and Converse are trainers and are not permitted to be worn in school.

When you are purchasing a school skirt, please ensure it is not made from Lycra and that the length of the skirt is at least at mid-thigh level. Any student wearing an incorrect skirt, either due to material or length, will be provided with an appropriate school skirt to wear. The academy jumper is optional for all students. Students are not permitted to wear any outside attire inside the academy building – this includes hoodies and non-academy jumpers.

Ties can be purchased from our uniform suppliers, but we do have a limited number of ties in stock that can be purchased from the My Child at School app for £6.00. Each year group has a different colour stripe on their tie, and this moves through the years with them e.g. if your child is currently in year 7, they have a tie with a purple stripe and they will continue with this colour stripe until they leave in year 11. If you are experiencing any issues with acquiring uniform, please do contact the relevant year team who will be happy to support.

Due to health and safety limited jewellery is allowed to be worn by students. Students can wear one pair of stud earrings in the ear lobe only, a watch and Medicare bracelets only. A plain or clear nose stud is permitted – no body piercings of any other kind are permitted.

As we approach the school holidays some students may want to have false nails. This is up to families during holiday time but in school acrylic/false nails are not permitted for safety reasons. If a student is wearing acrylic/false nails, they will be placed in isolation until they are removed. Please bear this in mind in terms of time for this to be removed before the return to school in April.

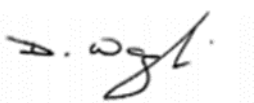
Year group emails:

- Year 7: purplepastoral@gaa.org.uk
- Year 8: redpastoral@gaa.org.uk
- Year 9: silverpastoral@gaa.org.uk
- Year10: goldpastoral@gaa.org.uk
- Year11: greenpastoral@gaa.ork.uk

As we come to the end of the term, and my tenure as your Principal, I would simply like to say thank you. Thank you for all your support, partnership and belief. Over the last 4 ½ years, GAA has been transformed into a GREAT school. It is great because of the GREAT students, staff and community we serve. In due course, our recent inspection report will be published, but I am delighted to be able to quote from the draft that I have received, “...this is a welcoming school. Pupils build positive, trusting relationships with each other and staff. Pupils feel safe and happy. The school is a well-organised, calm environment. The school is increasing ambitious for all pupils. The curriculum provides an extensive range of subjects for pupils to learn. Staff morale is high. There is a strong team ethos where everyone feels valued”.

Simply put, it has been a genuine privilege to have served you as your principal. I am moving on to The Lake District with a heavy heart but with the absolute confidence that GAA will continue to build from strength to strength, truly metamorphosising the life chances of the young people we serve.

Yours faithfully



Mr David Waugh
Principal