



# THE WELLS ACADEMY

INTEGRITY • RESILIENCE • AMBITION

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Dear Families

## Welcome Back

We are very excited to welcome all of our students back to the academy for the new academic year. Following two days of training, our staff have been preparing carefully to ensure your child has the best possible start. Please note the return dates for each year group:

<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b>	Year 7 only – arrive at 8.20am
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 only – arrive at 8.20am
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	Year 7, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 – arrive at 8.20am Year 8 – arrive at 10.30am
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	Entire academy – arrive at 8.20am

**It is very important that all students attend on their first day back, as this sets the tone for a successful year.**

### Every day counts

We expect all students to be 'In School, On Time' every single day from Monday to Friday. Missing even one day of learning means missing out. As you're aware, good attendance builds strong habits and being present from the very start of term makes a huge difference. **Students who miss school in the first two weeks are far more likely to become persistently absent later in the year.**

### Punctuality

Please remember, our gates open at 8.20am each day and they close at 8.30am. Students that arrive after 8.30am will be marked late. We also offer a free Breakfast Club to all students which opens from 8am daily.

### Why Attendance Matters

Your child's attendance is the most significant factor in them achieving their potential. Research tells us that the more days a child misses, the harder it is for them to catch up. Here is what different attendance levels look like:

- 98% attendance = 4 days missed in a year
- 96% = 8 days missed
- 94% = 12 days missed
- 92% = 16 days missed
- 90% = 19 days missed
- 85% = 29 days missed

A recent Department for Education report highlighted that even a **5% absence rate over time** can reduce a child's future earnings by around **£5,000 per year by the age of 28**. Being in school every day makes a difference.

Please note, our first half term finishes on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. Students are expected in school every day until then.



# THE WELLS ACADEMY

INTEGRITY • RESILIENCE • AMBITION

## Working together

We want to work in partnership with you to support excellent attendance. You can help by:

- Encouraging your child that it is always better to attend, even if they feel unsure or a little unwell.
- Making sure your child is 'In School, On Time' each day.
- Contacting the academy if you need any support or guidance.
- Positively promoting attendance at home and celebrating your child's successes.

## Changes to government policy

New national laws mean schools are required to take a stronger stance on unauthorised absences:

- If a child has 10 unauthorised absences (10 half days) over 10 consecutive school weeks, schools may issue a penalty notice.
- One morning or afternoon missed is considered one unauthorised absence.
- The first fine is £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).
- The second fine within three years is £160.
- If fines are not paid, families may be taken to court.
- If a child has three or more periods of absence in three years, families may also be taken to court rather than issued a further fine.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making sure your child 'In School, On Time' every day. We look forward to working with you this year.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Coles  
**Principal**