

11 February 2026



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school community. Our pupils continue to demonstrate commitment, resilience, and ambition in their learning, and this is only possible through the strong partnership we share with families. I write to you with some reminders and updates as we finish up for the half term break.

School Closures for Staff Training

Please can I draw your attention to the remaining training days this academic year, when school will be closed to pupils:

- Thursday 12 March 2026 – Half Day, School closes to pupils at 12:30pm
- Monday 20 July 2026 – School closed to pupils

Thank you for noting these dates and making the necessary arrangements.

Uniform Expectations – Years 7–11

Our high standards and strong reputation are built upon clear expectations, and our uniform plays a vital role in maintaining the sense of pride, equality, and professionalism that underpins our success. Recently, we have experienced an increased number of pupils pushing back on these well-established expectations. Examples include pupils wearing more than one ear stud, arriving to school with different coloured streaks in their hair or shaved marks, and attending in trainers such as Nike Air Forces instead of the required school shoes.

These issues do not help the school in upholding the extremely high standards that are the backbone of our success. We therefore ask for your full support in ensuring that pupils arrive at school fully compliant with our uniform expectations each day.

A reminder that our uniform consists of:

- Black blazer
- White school shirt
- School tie in house colours (minimum of 6 stripes visible)
- Black 'V' neck long sleeve jumper (optional)
- Black tailored trousers or black formal skirt of appropriate length
- Plain black socks or tights (not patterned)
- Plain black leather shoes
- One pair of small stud earrings worn in the lower lobe only
- No facial piercings, nail varnish, false lashes or false nails



Smestow Academy
Windmill Crescent
Castlecroft
Wolverhampton
WV3 8HU
West Midlands



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- Natural hair colour only
- No shaved lines in hair or eyebrows

More detailed guidance, including clarification on appropriate skirts and acceptable footwear, can be found on our website:

<https://smestowacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

We appreciate that maintaining standards is most effective when school and families work together. Your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home is greatly valued and makes a significant difference to ensuring pupils are ready to learn and represent the school with pride.

If your child has to borrow uniform from our Success Centre, please ensure that this is returned the same day or if not, the next day. There is a lot of uniform that has not been returned which we are having to replace. If uniform has not been returned, House Office will contact home and you may be invoiced for the missing items.

Equipment for learning

All pupils are expected to arrive to School equipped and ready to learn. This includes the following:

- Pupil Handbook
- Black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler

Our School Shop is open daily from 8.15am-8.45am for pupils to collect equipment that they may not have. Our price list is below:

- Pens - 10p each
- Pencils - 10p each
- Rulers - 15p each
- Handbook - £1.50

Please note: if your child is eligible for pupil premium funding, they will be given a new set of equipment (excluding the pupil handbook) at the start of each half-term from their form tutor. If they misplace this, they will be expected to fund the replacement.

Water Bottles

Could you ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle into school because we do not supply plastic cups. There are a number of water stations around the school where your child can refill their bottle.

Parking and Road Safety

We have again received complaints from local residents regarding unsafe and inconsiderate parking around the school at the end of the day, including vehicles causing obstructions and blocking driveways. This standard of driving is understandably unappreciated by residents of Windmill Crescent and Chelmarsh Avenue and, most importantly, may place pupils' safety at risk. We are also

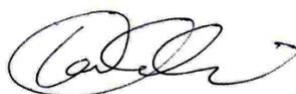


aware of some parents and carers parking very close to pupil exit points, making it more difficult for students to leave the site safely.

If you do need to use a vehicle to collect your child, we kindly ask that you allow extra time to park safely and legally further away from the school where possible and agree a suitable meeting point with your child. Your cooperation is essential in helping us keep all members of our community safe and in maintaining positive relationships with our neighbours.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and for the positive contribution you make to our school community. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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