

17 July 2026



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors for their continued support, commitment and partnership. It has been another hugely successful year for Smestow Academy, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together as a school community.

Our calm, respectful and purposeful culture continues to be one of our greatest strengths and is regularly recognised by visitors to the academy. Pupils have consistently demonstrated the high standards of behaviour, effort and ambition that underpin successful learning. These are a reflection of the clear, consistent approach we have taken together and the shared determination to ensure every pupil succeeds, noted in our fantastic Ofsted report published in January 2026.

This year has also been filled with memorable opportunities beyond the classroom. Pupils represented Smestow with pride at the Matrix Academy Trust Sports Day at Alexander Stadium, demonstrated incredible teamwork and talent in our outstanding production of *High School Musical*, and showed resilience and determination through the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Our Year 12 students have visited leading universities including Cambridge, Nottingham and Aston to raise aspirations for their futures, Year 8 enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Big Bang Fair, and we were delighted to launch our new Army Combined Cadet Force with a successful taster day ahead of its official launch in October 2026.

As we celebrate the achievements of our pupils, it is also a proud moment for our wider school community. Matrix Academy Trust was shortlisted for the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Award for Small Trust of the Year, whilst our school was recognised with the Secondary School of the Year – Making a Difference Award. These accolades reflect the remarkable journey our school continues to make and the positive difference our staff, pupils and families make every day. Smestow Academy continues to go from strength to strength, and I am excited about what lies ahead as we continue to achieve success together.

As we close another successful year, I would like to share some important information regarding the start of the new academic year.



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Wolverhampton
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Head of House Update

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would also like to share a staffing update within our pastoral team. At the end of this term, Mr Patel will be leaving Smestow Academy to take up a well-deserved promotion. I know many pupils and families, particularly those in Graiseley House, will join me in thanking Mr Patel for his commitment, care and dedication to supporting our pupils. We wish him every success in the next stage of his career.

To ensure continuity of care and support for pupils, Mr Webb will become the Interim Head of Graiseley House from September. Mr Webb already knows many of our pupils well and will work closely with the pastoral team to ensure that Graiseley House continues to thrive. I am confident that pupils will be in safe hands and that the high standard of pastoral care our families expect will continue without interruption.

Start of Term Arrangements

The first week back arrangements are as follows:

- **Tuesday 1st September** – Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils).
- **Wednesday 2nd September** – Transition Day. Year 7 pupils and Prefects attend only. Year 12 registration day (Year 12 accepted applicants should arrive by 10:00am).
- **Thursday 3rd September** – All pupils return to school.
 - Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils should arrive by 8:30am. Year 7 go to Form; Years 8 and 9 line up on the tennis courts.
 - Years 10 and 11 pupils should arrive by 9:15am and line up on the tennis courts.
 - Years 12 and 13 students should arrive by 10:15am.
 - The school day will finish for all year groups at 3:00pm.
- **Friday 4th September onwards** – Normal school day (8:30am–3:00pm). Pupils should continue to arrive by 8:25am.

Equipment

To ensure pupils are fully prepared for learning from the first day back, they should bring the following equipment each day:

- Two black pens (one spare)
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Pupil handbook (issued on return in September)

Uniform Expectations

Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and reflects the high standards we expect of all pupils. We ask for the continued support of parents and carers in ensuring that pupils arrive at school each day wearing the correct uniform and presenting themselves smartly.



School uniform consists of, and in particular, we would appreciate your support in ensuring that:

- 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 (at least **5 cm above the knee**)
- 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
- Natural hair colour only
- No shaved lines in hair or eyebrows
- skirts are of an appropriate length (at least **5 cm above the knee and not stretchy** as set out in our uniform policy);
- boys wear their trousers correctly around the waist at all times;

Thank you for your continued partnership in maintaining the high standards that make Smestow Academy such a calm, purposeful and professional learning environment.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical healthcare plan written by a medical professional, please provide the school with an updated signed copy.

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please contact school reception before the start of term to arrange for medication to be brought into school and for the relevant consent forms to be completed with one of our First Aiders. We are unable to administer medication until written parental consent has been received.

Attendance

Excellent attendance remains one of the most important factors in ensuring pupils achieve their full potential.

The Government's guidance regarding Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence remains in place. Key points include:

- A Penalty Notice may be issued where a child has 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period.
- The fine is £160 per parent, per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second Penalty Notice issued within three years will be charged at £160 with no reduction.
- Further offences may result in prosecution, fines of up to £2,500 and may have implications for future DBS checks.



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- Penalty Notices may also be issued where holidays are taken during term time without prior authorisation.
- Separate fines apply for each child where siblings are absent without permission.

We are grateful for the continued support of our parents and carers in ensuring pupils attend school every day and arrive punctually.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of our school community for the part you have played in making Smestow Academy such a welcoming, ambitious and caring place to learn. Together we have celebrated success, embraced new opportunities, overcome challenges and continued to raise aspirations for every young person. The achievements of this year give us every reason to be optimistic about the future, and I am excited to build on this momentum in the year ahead.

I wish you and your families a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back in September as we begin another exciting chapter at Smestow Academy, continuing to live our motto of **Success Achieved Together**.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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