



Dear Parents/Carers,

## End of Summer Term 2024

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the academic year and that the summer break is upon us. The summer term is without doubt one of the busiest in the year!

Year 11 and Year 13 examinations are complete, and all the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by these students must be recognised and congratulated. Students can now take a well-earned break and enjoy the celebrations that come with this.

We had fantastic Leavers Days and Awards Evenings, as well as the annual Proms to celebrate the end of the students' time with us. We wish our Year 11 and 13 students an enjoyable summer break and eagerly await their results in August.

Our core values of Respect, Resilience and Success continue to sit at the heart of all that we do, and our students have shown this in abundance throughout the year. The Summer 2024 edition of our Academy Magazine (<https://tinyurl.com/7c4c8xwc>) celebrates all the amazing events and activities our students have taken part in, and I would urge you to read it if you haven't already.

As is usual at this time of year, we will be saying farewell to some of our staff as they move onto to new roles in other schools. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of them, for their commitment and dedication, hard work, and support they have given to all our students, in many cases over a number of years. I wish them every success in their future careers.

I am pleased to welcome the following new teachers who will be starting with us in August:

- Mr T Ovenden (Maths)
- Mr M Green (English)
- Mr M Ward (History)
- Mrs E Linnell-Johnson (Geography)
- Mrs S Richards (Drama)
- Mrs A Roberts (Media)
- Mrs L Ford (Music)

I am also pleased to inform you that Mr N Williams (Assistant Headteacher) will take on the role of SENDCO from August 2024.

Due to staffing changes, there will be some alterations to some CREW groups for the next academic year. The details of these changes will be communicated at the end of August before students return to school.

## End of term arrangements

A reminder that the summer term 2024 will **finish for students at 3pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

## Start of term arrangements

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - Years 7, 11 and 13 return to school
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - Return for all year groups (except Year 12)
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - All year groups (including Year 12)



## Important Dates for the 2024/25 Academic Year:

- A Level Results Day - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (8.30-9.30am)
- GCSE Results Day - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 (8.30-9.30am)
- Years 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13 Power to Perform Evening for Parents – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Year 7 and 12 CREW and PREP Parents Meeting – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Open Evening – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Parent workshops:-
  - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (4:30-5:30pm)
  - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (4:30-5:30pm)
  - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (4:30-5:30pm)
- The Academy will close at 2pm on the following dates for MAT wide training for staff:-
  - 14th November 2024
  - 16th January 2025
  - 13th February 2025
  - 13th March 2025
  - 8th May 2025
  - 26th June 2025

## REAL Success

A little over a year ago I announced that all students at Countesthorpe Academy would be taking part in CREW time, a key feature of our **REAL LIFE Curriculum**, and I am delighted to tell you that it has been a huge success!

As a reminder, **REAL** LiFE is designed to help students become more independent and pro-active learners who can positively influence the world around them. One of the main features of this curriculum model is **CREW** which stands for **Coaching, Reflection, Enrichment** and **Well-being**. CREW allows our students to set their own personalised learning goals and gives them time within the school day to work towards these. Our teachers (CREW Leaders) oversee this process and coach the students to reflect and refine their work in order to improve. This goal setting and personalised, independent studying has been transformational, with students engaged in their own learning like never before. The same can be said for our Sixth Form students who take part in their own adapted version of CREW time called **PREP (Professional Reflection and Enrichment Programme)** which has been carefully constructed to focus on study skills, enrichment and their future education and career pathways.

As an indicator of how successful the REAL Life Curriculum has been, and how important CREW and PREP time is to student success, other schools the LiFE trust are now adopting our approach and implementing the REAL LiFE Curriculum and CREW time in their settings.

As we move into the next academic year, Countesthorpe Academy, along with other schools in the LiFE Multi-Academy Trust, will continue to realise the benefits of our approach to education through the **REAL** LiFE Curriculum.



## Changes to how cashless catering money can be used from August 2024

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I am excited to share some positive changes regarding how school dinner money can be utilised in our school.

Your child's dinner money, which is topped up onto our cashless catering system via ParentPay.com, will continue to allow them to purchase food and drinks at breakfast, break and lunch times, however from September we are expanding its use to include essential stationery items.

These essential items are pencils, pens and rulers, and would be available to purchase in our reprographics department. They would **not** include nonessential stationery items such as pencil sharpeners, felt tip pens etc; the focus being on equipping students with classroom essentials and not using their dinner money for more general purchases.

I want to assure you that students will not be compelled to use their dinner money for these additional purchases. It remains entirely optional. Furthermore, we have set a minimum balance requirement of £3.50 to ensure that students always have sufficient funds for meals.

However, we do insist that our students are school and learning ready, which means they are properly attired and equipped for school, including bringing in essential stationery items.

Free school meal students would not be able to use their free school meal allowance for these purchases.

The overall aim for this initiative is to provide an avenue for students to equip themselves for lessons in a convenient and cost-effective manner in more urgent circumstances.

I trust that this explains our intentions and is both welcomed and reassuring. If you do have any concerns, please send me an email via [admin@clcc.college](mailto:admin@clcc.college)

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Countesthorpe Academy, I would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support and help this year. I hope you all have a well-earned and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. Aitcheson

Headteacher