

Principal: Mr Ian Walsh

Broad oak Academy, Windwhistle Road,
Weston-super-Mare BS23 4NP

Tel: 01934 422 000

Email: enquiries@broad oakacademy.clf.uk

www.broad oakacademy.clf.uk



Friday, 10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year, I am writing to share a number of important developments that will help us continue to strengthen our school community, raise standards, and enhance the experience for all students.

We are proud of the progress we have made this year and are excited to build on this momentum with several key improvements.

Strengthening Pastoral Care: Introduction of Heads of Year

From September, we will be moving to a *Head of Year* structure. This change will provide students with more focused pastoral support and clearer lines of communication for families.

Our well-established House system will remain an important part of school life. Houses will continue to foster a strong sense of belonging, identity, and community across year groups. In fact, we will be enhancing this further through:

- Weekly house competitions
- Increased opportunities for student participation
- A stronger focus on rewards and recognition

We will confirm the staffing for each year group next week.

Enhanced Rewards System and New Rewards Shop

You may already have noticed a significant push on House Points this term. This is part of our preparation for a major development launching in September.

We are excited to introduce a new Rewards Shop, where students will be able to redeem their house points for a wide range of items, including:

- Toys and fun items



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- Sports equipment
- School equipment and stationery
- Gifts for family members
- Larger “save-up” rewards for longer-term goals

This initiative is designed to motivate students, celebrate effort and achievement, and encourage positive behaviours across the school.

PE Kit: Return to Changing for PE

From September, students will return to changing for PE lessons in school.

The temporary arrangement of wearing PE kit to school was introduced during COVID-19, and it is now the right time to return to our usual practice. This change will:

- Improve hygiene standards
- Ensure students remain comfortable and dry throughout the day
- Allow us to fully deliver the PE curriculum, including in wet weather

Students who have a uniform pass will retain them. We appreciate your support in helping students prepare for this transition.

Mobile Phones: Government Guidance

In line with the government's recent statutory guidance that schools should be mobile phone-free environments and have policies prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the school day, we have been reviewing and refining our approach.

We have also been working closely with our Trust, the Cabot Learning Federation, to consider the merits of different approaches, including lockers, phone collection systems and phone pouches.

As an academy, we welcome this new guidance. We believe it will support learning, promote positive mental health and provide students with valuable periods during the day when they do not need to worry about their phones, messages or notifications.



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We recently sent a reminder of our current policy and are grateful for your continued support in ensuring that students keep their phones switched off throughout the school day. We have recently met with Yondr to explore the use of phone pouches, an approach that is widely used in schools internationally. Yondr works with schools across 48 countries and has supported millions of students in creating phone-free learning environments.

One of the key benefits of this approach is that students can retain possession of their phones while being unable to access them during the school day. This helps to reduce distractions, supports learning and wellbeing, and provides reassurance that phones remain securely with their owners.

We are continuing to evaluate the options available to us and will consult with staff, students and families as appropriate. We will provide a further update in September, when we will confirm our final mobile phone policy and the arrangements that will be in place for the 2026–27 academic year.

Communicating with Parents Policy – Summary for Parents

At Broadoak Academy, we value strong partnerships with parents and carers and are committed to communicating in a clear, professional and timely manner. To ensure enquiries are managed efficiently, consistently and fairly, all parent communications should be sent to info@ba.clf.uk, which is the academy's central point of contact. This applies even if you have the email address of an individual member of staff. Using the central inbox enables us to log, track and monitor enquiries, ensuring that messages are directed to the appropriate colleague and that timely responses are provided.

We aim to acknowledge all emails within two working days and provide a full response as quickly as possible, keeping parents informed where additional time is needed. We encourage respectful, solution-focused communication and, where appropriate, may arrange a phone call or meeting rather than engage in lengthy email exchanges. Staff are not expected to respond outside of working hours, and emails received outside these times will be treated as having been received on the next working day.

To help streamline communication, please note that the parents@broadoakacademy.clf.uk and enquiries@broadoakacademy.clf.uk email addresses will be discontinued from September. We therefore ask that all future enquiries are directed to info@ba.clf.uk. Through these arrangements, we aim to



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maintain positive relationships, support student success and ensure that all communications are handled effectively, consistently and transparently.

Looking Ahead

These changes reflect our commitment to providing a structured, supportive, and engaging environment where every student can thrive.

We are confident that these developments will have a positive impact on both student outcomes and the overall school experience. Further details will be shared before the start of term to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Walsh

Principal

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