

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear parents and carers,

## Re: Looking Ahead to September

### Attendance expectations

We are incredibly proud to share that our whole school attendance has significantly improved over the past three years – with this year seeing the most substantial increase to date. Thanks to the efforts of our students, families, and staff, we are now the most improved school for attendance within our Trust. This progress reflects the collective commitment across our community to the importance of being in school every day.

However, while overall attendance has risen, we remain concerned about the high number of authorised absences due to illness, which remain the highest in our Trust. Developing attendance resilience—the ability to attend school even when faced with minor illness or challenges—will be a key focus for the year ahead.

From September, we will be aligning our approach with NHS guidance on school attendance and illness. This will help support families in making informed decisions about when a child is well enough to attend school. Full details will be outlined in our updated School Attendance Policy, which will be available on our website in September.

To support this next step in our journey, we are excited to launch a new initiative: Ready, Set, Attend! This will build on this year's momentum and will reward consistent, improved, and resilient attendance. It's designed to motivate students across the year with regular milestones, recognition, and a healthy sense of competition. Further information will be shared in September—but we wanted to give you advance notice, as the competition begins on Day 1!

### Uniform and Equipment Expectations

As we look forward to welcoming students back in September, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school's expectations regarding uniform and essential equipment. Maintaining high standards in these areas helps us create a positive learning environment where all students can thrive.

#### Uniform Expectations

Please ensure your child returns to school in full uniform, as outlined on the uniform page of our website. A reminder that this includes:

- Kirk Hallam Community Academy branded blazer
- Tie worn at all times
- A white shirt with collar (not a polo shirt)
- Black Knee length pleated skirt (not tight-fitting stretchy tube)
- Plain black trousers made from tailored material.
- Plain black formal leather shoes with a stepped heel
- A plain sensible coat that can be worn over the blazer not a hooded top
- A black V-necked jumper (optional)



For health and safety reasons fingernails should be always kept short and the wearing of acrylic nails, gels, extensions and any other false applications are not permitted. Please ensure if these are done over the summer then they are removed ready for the return in September.

Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

### **Equipment Expectations**

Students must bring the following equipment each day:

- A school bag in size to carry books and equipment.
- Pencil case
- Black pen
- Green pen
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Rubber

Being properly equipped ensures students are ready to learn and able to participate fully in lessons.

If you are experiencing any difficulties in obtaining uniform or equipment, please do not hesitate to contact the school, and we will be happy to offer support where possible.

### **Update to Sanctions for C2 Behaviour Incidents**

At Kirk Hallam, we are committed to creating a calm, focused learning environment where every student can achieve their best. In line with this, we are making a small but important change to our behaviour policy to help maximise learning time and reduce disruption in lessons.

From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, any student who receives a C2—which indicates they have been removed from a lesson due to poor behaviour—will now be issued a 15-minute detention for each C2 received. These short, same-day detentions will take place after school and are designed to ensure that students reflect on their choices and understand the impact of their behaviour on both their learning and that of others.

This change is being introduced to:

- Encourage positive behaviour and focus in the classroom
- Minimise disruptions that take away from valuable teaching and learning time
- Reinforce the importance of meeting our high expectations

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. Should a C2 and detention be issued, you will be informed via text, with a follow up email or phone call.

To help you stay informed and support your child's progress and behaviour, we strongly encourage all parents and carers to sign up to and regularly check Class Charts—our online behaviour tracking platform. Through Class Charts, you can monitor both positive and negative behaviour points, view any detentions set, and celebrate successes or address concerns as they arise.

If you are not yet signed up or need help accessing your account, please contact [office@kirkhallamacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@kirkhallamacademy.co.uk) who will be happy to assist.

If you have any questions about this change or our behaviour policy more generally, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Miss M Williams  
Deputy Headteacher