



August 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

As we draw toward the end of the summer holiday, I am writing to you with some reminders for the new academic year.

Firstly, well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students! They achieved some excellent results and we look forward to hearing about their progress in the next stages of their lives. As a school, we are delighted that the results again demonstrate an upward trajectory of improvement in student outcomes. As we approach the new academic year, these results serve as a reminder of our purpose in working together to ensure that all students achieve their best whilst upholding our values of 'Be Kind, Work Hard and Celebrate All'.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students. Staff have been busy preparing lessons, organising classrooms and outside spaces for students' return. Alongside this, we have continued to invest resources in our buildings with work taking place over the summer to refurbish four Science laboratories alongside building work to further strengthen our Student Support and Special Educational Needs areas.

Return to School

- Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 September – Staff training (no students in school).
- Thursday 3 September - Years 7, 11 and 12 return only (arrive by 8.30am). Year 7 and Year 12 students to enter via reception.
- Friday 4 September - All students (arrive by 8.30am).

A reminder that all students are expected to be in school by 8.30am ready for Line Up/Learning Period 1. Breakfast Club is available from 8am in The Galley. Unless attending a club/activity, students should not be onsite before this time. The school day finishes at 3.05pm. A reminder that parents dropping off and picking up students should do so using the school car park, adjacent to the school site. For the safety of both students and staff, the vehicle gate will not be open when students are arriving to and leaving school.

Ready to Learn

All students should arrive to school Ready to Learn, in the correct uniform and with the necessary equipment for the day. Our uniform and equipment details can be found on our website at [Uniform, The Victory Academy](#). We ask for your support in ensuring that all students start the academic year in the correct uniform, with the appropriate equipment and meet our appearance expectations. Here are some key reminders:

- Students should have a bag to ensure they can carry their equipment, mobile phone pouch and PE Kit. Their bag will also be used for revision resources and out of class learning resources.
- Blazers should be worn at all times
- School shirts should be tucked in at all times



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE thevictoryacademy.org.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in wellbeing

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

Headteacher: Mr O Owen BSc (Hons)
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



- Jumpers (which are optional in addition to a blazer) should be plain black with a V-neck
- Trousers should be plain black, straight-leg trousers (no skinny fit, flared or denim)
- Socks should be black or white ankle socks (no logos, stripes or colours)
- Hoodies, tracksuit tops, scarves, denim and leather jackets are not permitted
- Hairstyles should be appropriate and of a natural colour and not contain exaggerated colours or styles. Patterns or tramlines should not be shaved into the hair or eyebrows.
- Only one small plain gold or silver stud in the lower lobe with no other visible piercings (including tongue and nose piercings)
- False eyelashes or false nails should not be worn and will have to be removed before entering the Academy

Students arriving to school wearing incorrect uniform will be asked to correct it on the day. Your support in ensuring students meet our general appearance expectations which can be found using the link above would be appreciated. Should you have any issues with ensuring your child has the correct uniform or in meeting our general expectations, please contact the Academy in advance of the start of the new term.

Mobile Phones

From September, in line with government guidance, all school sites in the UK will be mobile phone free for students. We recognise that some parents and carers wish their child to have a phone for safety on the journey to and from school. This is fully understood. However, mobile phones must not be seen, heard or used anywhere on the school site.

As previously communicated ([mobile phone-free school from september 2026 - letter.pdf](#)) this September, we will be issuing all students with a mobile phone pouch. All phones will need to be stored in this pouch through the school day. We appreciate that this is a significant change in routines and we want to ensure we support all students to be aware of the practicalities that will be involved. During the first two weeks of term, we will be educating all students on these new routines and distributing pouches. **From Monday 14th September, our new routines and consequences will be fully operational.**

School Meals and Allergies

Our catering provider is Innovate who are aligned with the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's vision to create a positive food culture and help change the eating habits of young people. To apply for Free School Meals, please visit [School Meals, The Victory Academy](#) and complete this form [Free School Meal Application Form](#)

A reminder that the Victory Academy supports the approach advocated by Anaphylaxis UK by being a school that adopts a culture of awareness and education rather than guaranteeing a truly allergen free environment. In line with this, we ask parents/carers to ensure they have updated us on any allergies that relate to their child.



Communication

At The Victory Academy, we value our partnership with parents/carers. We know that students benefit from a positive relationship between school and home. Therefore, please ensure you keep us informed of any phone number, email or home address changes so we can keep in touch with you. Ideally, each child should have a minimum of three emergency contacts. Please confirm any changes via email and send to office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

There will be times when parents/carers have questions and concerns they wish to raise with us and we want to ensure we work with you to resolve these as quickly and effectively as possible.

The most effective ways to contact the Academy are by:

- Arbor App: Message (We kindly ask that where possible, this is your first method of contact.)
- **Email:** office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk
- **Phone:** 0333 360 2140 (Please leave a voice message if your call cannot be answered. Staff will do their very best to return your call as soon as they can. Please note our busiest times are before 10am over lunch.)

In the first instance, unless there is a member of staff you have already been working with, any questions or concerns will be passed to your child's Tutor, House Leader or the relevant subject department. As a first step, they will make contact to confirm the nature of your question or concern and discuss any follow up that is needed. We are keen to meet with parents in person where questions and concerns remain. However, due to staff teaching and other commitments, staff cannot always be readily available to meet if parents/carers come directly to reception. If you would like to meet with a member of staff, it is best to contact the Academy in advance to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Useful Contacts

For the academic year ahead, the following contacts will be useful for you to be aware of:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Hope
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Ms Miles
- Attendance Improvement Manager (for any queries related to student absence) - Miss Reeve
- Family Liaison Officer – Ms Fill
- Student Services Manager (including support with creating and updating Medical Plans) - Mr Miller
- House Leader Fitzroy (Red) - Mrs Lacey
- House Leader Portland (Yellow) - Mrs Bamidele
- House Leader Trafalgar (Blue) – Mr McAllister
- House Leader Viking (Green) - Mrs Berry
- Head of Year 11 - Miss Jordan
- Head of Year 12 & 13 - Mr Cass

**Social Media**

If you don't already, please follow us on our social media pages (Facebook, X and Instagram) and keep an eye on our website. We post good news stories and communications frequently on these platforms.

Staff look forward to welcoming our students back to school and thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure students are happy and successful.

Yours sincerely

Mr O Owen
Headteacher