



12 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Beyond Planners, Year 10 Options Changes, Snowdonia Year 11 Residential, Cricket & Rounders Games, Funding for Children Previously in Care, Open Week**

Welcome to my weekly update letter. Our first full week has been a busy one with much more to come.

### **Beyond Planners**

It will not have been lost on you that we have moved away from physical planners this year. This is as a result of student and staff feedback given the digital solutions we also employ. With this in mind, it is important that students remember to bring their timetable cards which we have ensured fits in a blazer pocket for convenience.

### **Year 10 Options Changes**

Friday 26 September is the final deadline for us to consider changing any options subjects for students who have just begun in Year 10. This is a generous deadline after over three weeks of term. Some subjects are now full and, whilst Mr Ward will endeavour to help where he can, choices are now becoming more limited. Please use [options@srpa.co.uk](mailto:options@srpa.co.uk) should you have any questions. Thank you.

### **Snowdonia Year 11 Residential**

Mr Adlington and his team led a fantastic trip this week. Jumping off waterfalls, abseiling down mountains and spending a day in a slate mine were just some of the experiences for our youngsters who were also outstanding ambassadors for the Academy. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Cricket & Rounders Games**

Our plans for staff v student sports fell foul of the weather before the summer break. We are keen to have one last go at fitting it in as a chance for us to raise some money for our new academy charities and to say a nice hello to our new Year 7 students who will not have experienced this type of event before at school. At the time of writing, Friday 19 September looks sunny and a reasonable 17 degrees. I am hoping the weather holds and we can spend periods 4 and 5 on the day with RP6<sup>th</sup> selling drinks and ice pops and our youngsters enjoying watching us putting ourselves through our paces! I will keep you informed next week as the weather forecast becomes clearer.

## Funding for Children Previously in Care

Please find attached a leaflet regarding eligibility for Pupil Premium Plus funding for children previously in care.

## Open Week

The week after next, we will be open for Year 6 pupils to come and take a look around. Tours are available with staff and student guides every day from 9:10am with our annual open evening on Wednesday 24 September. Usually, the evening is incredibly busy, so please plan accordingly if you intend to join us from 6pm.

I have had the pleasure this week of being out on duty seeing our Academy at work and play. It has been a really nice atmosphere. In addition, attendance has been fantastic. Very soon, we will be inviting parents in to come and take a walk around to see what we see on a daily basis as part of our parental engagement strategy. This will sit separately to Open Week to allow for a more bespoke service. Watch this space for more details.

The beginning of term is a good time to reflect on how far we have come and on the present moment, as we say hello to so many new faces at the Academy with another bumper year group joining us. However, the political narrative doesn't ever feel very positive and I think it can get you down. So, in the words of the Dalai Lama, "Choose to be optimistic, it feels better."

Keep smiling and have a good weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Headmaster**



# Extra funding available for your child's education

Make sure your child's school is not missing out on an extra £2630 each year to support their education.

If you're caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order, additional funding is available to ensure they are given extra support at school.



Called Pupil Premium Plus (PP+), this funding of up to £2630 per pupil is available for pupils in Reception to Year 11 who were looked after and left care under an adoption\*, special guardianship or child arrangements order (formerly residence order).

If your child has recently moved schools and you haven't informed the school of their status, you will need to contact the school as overleaf.

The school may not know of your child's situation, and it is up to you as their parent/guardian to ensure they know your child meets the criteria, so that they can apply for funding.

\*Includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside of England and Wales



## What do you need to do?

Contact your child's Designated Teacher (DT) for previously looked after children. All schools have one.

You will then need to provide documentary evidence (court order) to the school. They will just need to verify that your child has left public care. They don't need to hold a copy on record.

## By when?

Please let your child's school know by the second week in September to declare inclusion on the October Census Return so they don't miss out on additional support next year.

## What is a Designated Teacher?

All schools have a designated teacher and they are responsible for supporting children who've been previously looked after to help them achieve well at school. Designated teachers should work effectively with parents and carers, undertake appropriate training and gain a good understanding of your child's needs to ensure they're receiving the best support.

## Is the funding ring fenced to my child?

The funding is not ring fenced to an individual child. The school can spend the funding either directly on your child, or perhaps to train staff in how best to support children and young people who have been in care.

## Where can I access more information and advice?

If you'd like more information on Pupil Premium Plus for previously looked after children, contact your school's Designated Teacher in the first instance. Or for more advice, contact the Lincolnshire Virtual School Team, email: [virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

