



1 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options Confirmation Letters, Year 11 and 13 Public Examinations, Releasing Year 11 and 13 from Formal Lessons, Prom Arrangements, Funding for Children Previously in Care, Online Safety Webinar for Parents of Teens – Wednesday 6 May 2026 from 6pm – 7:30pm

Welcome to my end of week update letter. Yesterday, our Year 8 girls' football team represented us in the County Cup final. Sadly, despite a valiant effort, the girls lost 2-1 to a strong Spalding Academy side. Never mind, they were brilliant advocates for the Academy and there is always next season!

Year 9 Options Confirmation Letters

Mr Ward has prepared the final confirmation letters for the whole year group.

These will be coming home with students today and, for any absent students, they have been posted home.

Year 11 and 13 Public Examinations

Although we are already into the examination series with MFL speaking, Art and Performing Arts underway, next week sees the first tranche of written papers. This will see some different ways of working for all other year groups as the sports hall will be out of bounds and C105 and the Cadet Building will be utilised for those candidates with access arrangements and RP6th. All students should be mindful of the need to remain quiet around any examination rooms, including upon dismissal at the end of the academy day, when some A level papers will still be ongoing as school ends.

Best of luck to all of our students taking any papers this summer. We are all rooting for you!

Releasing Year 11 and 13 from Formal Lessons

In response to several parental enquiries, in line with the last few years, I intend to release both Year 11 and 13 on the **afternoon of Friday 22 May 2026**. We will be holding optional revision sessions by subject after May half term and will publish this offer in due course, but the end of this half term will represent the last day both year groups must be in compulsory lessons. Study leave is at the discretion of the Headteacher and is becoming increasingly uncommon due to the DfE's strict attendance guidelines. I trust that this will be seen as the supportive measure it is intended to be.

Prom Arrangements

Year 13 Prom will go ahead as planned on Tuesday 30 June 2026. Mr Griffiths and his team are looking forward to seeing you all there and have a great plan for the evening.

Year 11 Prom will go ahead as planned on Thursday 25 June 2026.

We have received some recent enquiries from parents regarding whether their children can attend the prom if they had initially declined the chance to buy a ticket. In short, this is absolutely fine, as long as they were eligible for an invitation based on their behaviour record.

Despite clear messages about behaviour expectations, a small number of Year 11 students continue to refuse to follow instructions, fulfil reasonable expectations or behave in line with our code of conduct. This small group have either been refused entry to prom initially or their invitation has been removed because they continue to receive negative behaviour points as we approach the examination season.

Prom is a privilege, not a right. We host it at the Academy to keep costs down for everyone and to ensure it goes ahead successfully. My staff are not paid for this event as part of their contracted hours, but they always attend and pull out all of the stops for our youngsters because they know what a milestone it is. We take the view that students who cannot behave during school when our expectations are clear, despite the risk of possible sanctions, cannot be trusted to be mature enough to attend prom and behave when they legally come off roll the following day. Prom exists for the majority to enjoy and is not to be spoilt for those who attend well, work extremely hard, do not disrupt lessons or social time and uphold our values consistently.

Funding for Children Previously in Care

Please see the attached leaflet for information regarding eligibility for Pupil Premium Plus funding for children previously in care and how to claim this.

Online Safety Webinar for Parents of Teens – Wednesday 6 May 2026 from 6pm – 7:30pm

Learn about the apps teens use, key online risks, and how to keep them safe – plus tips for confident conversations and a live Q&A.

Register via the link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2160049>

The next three weeks until the half term break bring new challenges now the examinations are upon us. It is natural for students to be nervous or doubt themselves as they feel the inevitable pressures of beginning their GCSEs or A levels. At times like this, I am reminded of the words of the Roman lyric poet, Horace, who said “Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant.”

Get ready to show those talents in the exams. We believe in you!



Of course, this weekend is the first May bank holiday weekend. We look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday 5 May 2026, not on Monday. I hope all of our families enjoy a restful extended long weekend.

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 £2690 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 £2690 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

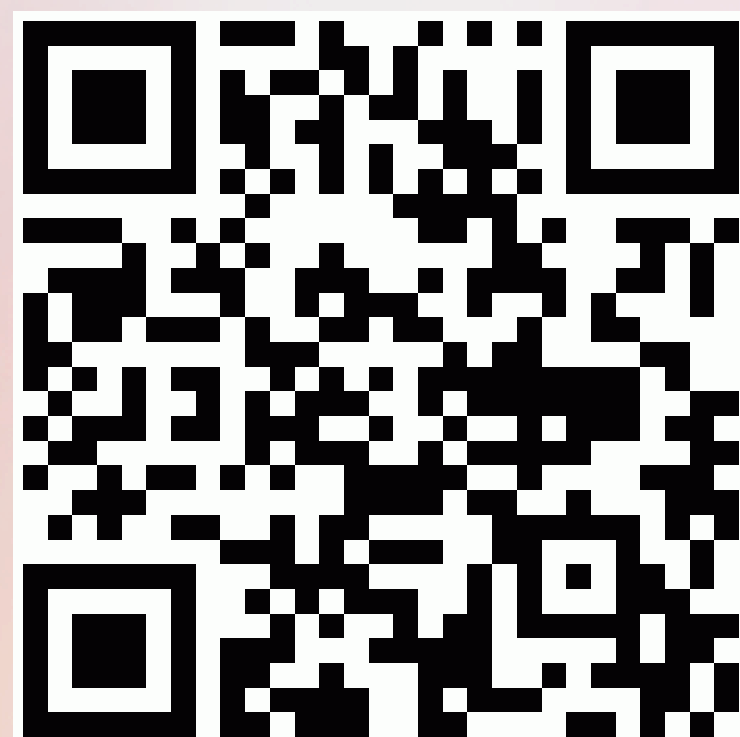




Online safety Q+A for secondary parents



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



Wednesday 6th May
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Microsoft Teams event

Join the Stay Safe Partnership for an Online Safety Event for Parents of Teens

Get the latest insights and practical tools to help you:

Understand the most popular social media apps teens use and their risks

What parental controls are available that can keep them safe

Support your teen in managing harmful content and unwanted contact

Learn strategies for starting confident, open conversations about online safety

Ask your questions and get clear answers on trends, apps, and risks

Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills to keep your teen safe while they explore the online world.



<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2160049>