17 July 2026

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horbury.accordmat.org

Executive Principal: Mrs Nicola Walker
Head of Academy: Mr Nick Ash

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Horbury Academy.

It has been a highly successful year, with our pupils achieving excellent outcomes both inside and outside the classroom. We have seen pupils embrace new challenges, demonstrate resilience and ambition, and take full advantage of the many opportunities available to them. Their achievements, combined with the dedication of our staff and the support of our families, have made this a year to be proud of.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited to continue building on these successes. We remain committed to providing the very best educational experience for our pupils, with further developments to our curriculum, enrichment opportunities and wider academy provision planned for the year ahead.

Please read the following information carefully to ensure that you are fully informed:

Celebrating our pupils
It has been wonderful to see our pupils continue to be recognised for their exceptional contributions to academy life. This year alone, families and pupils have received the following: 69000 Above and Beyonds were Awarded, 34000 Gold Stars were Awarded 2024 Gold Tickets were achieved, 0ver 2000 places at rewards events and 5000 WOW Wednesday awarded. That's an extraordinary number that speaks volumes about their commitment and how we want to celebrate our pupils.

We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have accomplished and the many ways they embody our Accord Character Virtues. Their daily acts of excellence, kindness, and resilience shine brightly across our academy community. Please see a copy of our Summer Term Newsletter which celebrates some of our pupils' successes this term.

We hope parents and carers have enjoyed receiving these messages through the MCAS app and that they've helped you share in the pride we feel for our pupils' successes.

Extra-curricular and curriculum enrichment
Our extra-curricular programme has continued to grow and evolve this year, shaped by the interests and feedback of our pupils. We have offered 16 extra curricula clubs each week this half term with over 1500 total attendance to these sessions - including the school production of treasure island!

From creative arts to sports and everything in between, pupils have embraced these activities with real enthusiasm. Their talents have shone through in events such as the Music Showcase, the vibrant production of *Treasure Island*, and a full calendar of sporting fixtures. These moments not only enrich academy life but also help pupils develop confidence, teamwork, and a strong sense of achievement beyond the classroom.

Educational visits have also played a vital role in deepening and extending learning. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of experiences from visiting curriculum-linked locations such as Hornsea and Stratford. Other memorable trips included the extremely successful trip to Wimbledon – which continues to be one of the most popular trips we run.

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Each visit has helped pupils build independence, broaden their horizons, and connect their classroom learning to the wider world.

Year 11 Results Day Information
A reminder that, on Thursday 20 August, we will welcome back our Year 11 pupils to collect their results. Pupils may collect their envelopes from 8:30am in the Main Hall. Further information has been shared in a separate communication.

Post 16 Enrolment
A reminder to all Year 11 pupils wishing to join Accord Sixth Form College: enrolment will take place immediately after you collect your GCSE results on **Thursday 20 August 2025**.

You only need to bring your GCSE results; no additional documents are required. Please be aware that a photograph will be taken during enrolment for your Post 16 lanyard.

Start of Term Arrangements for Pupils
The academy will re-open on Wednesday 3 September for all our pupils.

During the day pupils will:
- Spend time with their form tutor
- Attend a welcome assembly
- Begin their lessons and learning.

This day is designed to help pupils settle in, reconnect with staff and peers, and start the new academic year with confidence and clarity.

Start/Finish Times for all pupils on Wednesday 3 September 2026

Year Group	Start	Finish
7	8:25am	2:55pm
8	10:15am	2:55pm
9	10:15am	2:55pm
10	10:15am	2:55pm
11	9:05am	3:45pm *

** Please note that Year 11 pupils will continue their compulsory Year 11 period 7 curriculum from Wednesday 3 September. Period 7 operates each week on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 3:45pm.*

Key Changes to the School Day
- **Arrival Time** - Pupils will be expected to arrive **no later than 8:25am** to ensure a prompt and calm start to the day. All pupils should then be in their form rooms by not later than 8:30am
- **Form Time** - Morning form time will be **extended by 5 minutes**, allowing additional time for pastoral support, daily notices, and delivery of our PSHCE curriculum.
- **Break Time** - Break time will increase from **15 minutes to 20 minutes**, giving pupils more opportunity to rest, socialise, and prepare for the next part of the day.
- **End of Academy Day** - The school day will now **finish at 2:55pm** for all year groups (with the exception of Y11 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).
- **Year 11 Period 7** - On **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**, Year 11 pupils will continue to attend Period 7. However, this session will now run from 3:00pm to 3:45pm (a total of 45 minutes). This ensures that the session remains purposeful while still finishing at the same time P7 has always finished.

These changes have been carefully planned to support pupil wellbeing, maintain our high-quality learning environments and ensure a smooth transition into the new academic year. The overall structure of lessons will remain familiar to pupils.

The Academy Day 2026/27

	Yr8 and 10	Y7	Yr 9 and 11
8:25 – 8:30	Arrival and readiness for learning	Arrival and readiness for learning	Arrival and readiness for learning
08:30 – 09:05	P1 Tutor time	P1 Tutor time	P1 Tutor time
09:05 - 10:05	P2	P2	P2
10:05 - 10:25	Break	P3	P3
10:35 - 10:55	P3	Break	
11:05- 11:25		P3	Break
11:25 - 12:25	P4	P4	P4
12:25 - 12:55	Lunch	P5	P5
12:55 - 1:25	P5	Lunch	
1:25 - 1:55		P5	Lunch
1:55 - 2:55	P6	P6	P6
2:55- 3:45			**Yr 11** – Period 7 Tue, Wed, Thurs

Introduction of a Two-Week Timetable
From September, we will also be moving to a two-week timetable, operating on a **Week A / Week B structure**. This approach allows curriculum time to be distributed more evenly across a fortnight rather than being confined to a single week. As a result, subjects with smaller allocations receive more consistent spacing between lessons, and pupils benefit from a more balanced learning experience. The timetable will be clearly communicated to pupils and parents and will be displayed on pupil planners and digital platforms to support organisation and routine.

We understand that adjustments to timings can affect family routines, and we appreciate your support as we implement these improvements. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the academy via our enquiries email: enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org

My Child at School App (MCAS)
If you have not yet registered for My Child at School (MCAS), we encourage you to do so as soon as possible so you can stay fully connected with the academy.

For full details and step-by-step guidance on downloading, registering and using the app, please visit our website: MCAS | Horbury Academy

Standards for Success September 2026

Uniform
At Horbury Academy, we believe that pupils should present themselves smartly and take pride in their appearance. All pupils are expected to wear the correct academy uniform at all times.

Wearing a uniform helps create a strong sense of belonging and unity. It encourages pupils to take pride in themselves and supports a calm, respectful and focused learning environment that reflects our shared values.

Full details of our uniform expectations are available in our **Uniform Policy** on the academy website, and we ask al parents and carers to read these carefully. Academy-branded items can be purchased from our approved supplier:

The Box *13 Towngate, Ossett, WF5 9BL Telephone: 01924 263030*
Please be aware that some local retailers (for example, **Smart Uniforms**) may sell items displaying the academy logo that have **not** been approved by the academy. We strongly advise against purchasing these, as they have not been quality checked and may not meet our required standards.

Parents are welcome to buy **generic uniform items**—such as shirts, trousers, and black socks—from a range of retailers, including supermarkets. However, before purchasing, please refer to the uniform expectations on our website to ensure all items meet academy standards Uniform | Horbury Academy

Uniform Support
We encourage parents and carers to donate any outgrown or unwanted uniform items to the academy whenever possible. Your contributions help other families and support our commitment to sustainability across our school community.

If your family requires financial assistance with uniform, please contact us directly at enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org. We are here to ensure every pupil feels confident, supported, and fully prepared for academy life.

Academy ties
Pupils will continue to wear the same-coloured tie as they have this academic year. All Year 7 pupils will be given a tie when they arrive at the academy.

The Year group colours are outlined below:

Year Group	Tie Colour
Year 7	Blue Tie
Year 8	Yellow Tie
Year 9	Green Tie
Year 10	Purple Tie
Year 11	Yr11 Tie

Attendance
In September we will be running an attendance initiative September Stars whereby pupils who achieve 100% attendance from the start of term to Friday 18th September will be in with a chance to win prizes. Prizes include queue jump passes, Greggs vouchers, Love2Shop Vouchers and sweet bags. All pupils who achieve 100% attendance will receive a Gold Star postcard!

Excellent attendance at the start of the academic year is vital for all pupils. National evidence highlights a worrying pattern: almost two-thirds of pupils who are absent in the first week of term go on to be persistently absent—missing more than 10% of school across the year. This level of absence can significantly affect their education and reduce the chances of reaching their potential.

In contrast, pupils with an attendance rate of 95% or above are twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 or higher in both Maths and English compared with pupils whose attendance falls to 90%. Even small differences in attendance can have a big impact on your child's outcomes.

Calendar Dates for 2026/2027
The term dates for 2026/2027 can be found on our website Term Dates | Horbury Academy

Contacting the Academy over the Summer
The academy will be closed throughout the summer break. If you need to get in touch during this period, please email enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org, and we will respond when staff return in September.

Final message

As many of you will know, this will be my final year at Horbury Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our parents and carers for the support, trust and encouragement you have shown throughout my time here. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a supportive community and to play a part in the education and development of so many young people.

I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together and will always look back on my time at Horbury Academy with great fondness and gratitude. Thank you for everything you have done to support both the academy and our pupils over the years.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Ash
Head of Academy

Useful Numbers for Families over the Summer Break

Child line
Support and advice for children online and over the phone. 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk.

Change, Grow, Live
An under 18s substance and alcohol misuse service providing free and confidential service to young people, families, friends and significant others that are residents in the Wakefield District. 01924 438383.

Citizen's Advice
An independent, local charity which offers free, confidential and impartial advice to the citizens of the Wakefield District for a wide range of issues e.g. housing, debt, family, employment... For telephone advice or for an appointment please call the advice line 0800 144 8848 – Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Kooth
Free, safe and anonymous online mental health support for young people https://kooth.com/.

Star Bereavement & Support Service
Emotional and practical support to children and young people aged 4 – 18 who live in the Wakefield District and have suffered bereavement or significant loss. 01924 787384 or 07881750094 claire@starwakefield.org.uk or via Facebook (Star Bereavement)

The resource food bank (Christ Church Ossett)
This operates on a referral basis from Job Centres, Social Services, Local Authority Crisis Units, Schools and Children's Centres, Homeless Shelters and Benefit Centres, Refuges and Vulnerable adult organisations. For further information contact 01924 263311 or christchurchsouthossett@gmail.com.

Worried About a Child?
If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being you should contact Social Care Direct free on 0345 8503 503 or email social_care_direct@wakefield.gov.uk. They will deal with your concerns and can offer advice and support on what to do.