

18 July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Scholars

End of Term Letter

I wanted to write one final time as I prepare to leave Netherwood and hand over the reins of the school to Mr Downing, who will take over as Principal from 1st September. While I will officially remain in post until the end of August, Friday 18th will be my last day with the academy in "full swing."

I have enjoyed five extremely challenging but ultimately rewarding years here at Netherwood. I am proud to say the academy is in a much stronger position now than when I first joined in the midst of the pandemic in September 2020.

I came into education to improve the life chances of all young people. Together with the dedicated staff body, in all its forms, we have worked tirelessly to raise standards, improve the academy, and give every child the best chance of success in life.

Though there have been personal ups and downs, I have always stayed true to my belief in the potential of young people. I know that my leadership style hasn't suited everyone but the mission – shared by myself and the wider staff team – has always been to drive improvement quickly and effectively, to ensure your children receive the best possible education.

I know this ambition will continue under Mr Downing's leadership as we enter the next academic year. While I do not wish to speak on his behalf, I would like to share some important reminders and updates to help you and your children prepare for September.

Start of Term Arrangements

We have planned a staggered return to school to help Year 7 settle into their new environment and to allow all scholars to participate in onboarding activities. These sessions are essential for setting expectations and ensuring a successful start to the academic year. Please see the schedule below:

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Mon 1 st September	INSET DAY				
Tue 2 nd September	IN (8:25-3:00)				
Wed 3 rd September	IN (8:25-3:00)				
Thurs 4 th September	IN (8:25-3:00)			IN (11:25-3:00)	IN (8:25-4:00)
Fri 5 th September	IN (8:25 - 3:00)	IN (8:25-11:30)	IN 11:25 - 3:00)		IN (8:25-3:00)
Mon 8 th September	Academy fully open to all				

School Day Times

The new school day times were shared earlier this term. For convenience, they are outlined below and are also available on the school website: [Academy Day 2025-26](#)

For the majority of scholars, the main change is an earlier start time by 5 minutes at 08:25am. For Year 11, period 6 is also now a compulsory part of their school day on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. *Please note the timetable below is an example, the start of day activities will vary each morning.*

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
08:00	08:25	Gates Open & Breakfast Provision				
08:25	08:45	Morning Meeting	Reading	Assembly	Reading	Morning Meeting
		Sports Hall	Tutor Groups	Main Hall	Tutor Groups	Heart Space
08:50	08:55	Change over				Intervention
08:55	09:10	Reading	Morning Meeting	Reading	Morning Meeting	
		Tutor Groups	Sports Hall	Tutor Groups	Heart Space	
09:10	10:10	Period 1				
10:10	10:25	Break	Break	Period 2	Period 2	Break
10:25	11:10	Period 2	Period 2			Break
11:10	11:25					
11:25	12:25	Period 3				
12:25	12:55	Period 4a	Lunch	Period 4	Period 4	Lunch
12:55	13:25	Lunch - FD	Period 4			Lunch
13:25	13:55	Period 4b				
13:55	14:55	Period 5				
14:55	15:00	Tutor Check in & Line Up				
15:00	16:00	Enrichment activities and Homework Club				Period 6 (M.W.Th)

Parent/ Carer Calendar 2025-26

The academic calendar for 2025–26, including key dates such as review evenings and events, can be found on the school website: [NWA Parent/Carers Calendar 2025-26](#)

Phone Free Schools

From September, Netherwood will become a Phone-Free School. All scholars will hand in their phones at the start of the day. These will be stored securely in a purpose-designed phone safe and returned at the end of the day.

For further details:

- Read our [letters to parents](#) on the school website.
- There will also shortly be a video showing how this process works added to the website.

Uniform Expectations reminder

All scholars are expected to wear their uniform correctly and with pride whilst on academy premises and on the journey to and from the academy. Key points include:

- Blazer must be worn when moving around the academy
- No coats, hoodies or non-uniform outerwear indoors
- Shirt tucked in, top button fastened
- Tie worn correctly (light green for KS3, dark green for KS4)
- No rolled-up sleeves
- Jewellery: only one small stud in each ear and a watch (not smart watch)
- Trousers must be black, full-length, and tailored (no leggings or tight material)
- Black socks
- Black leather or leather-style shoes (no trainers, canvas, ballet pumps or suede)
- Backpack: All scholars must bring an A4-sized backpack (Netherwood branded for Year 7).

Uniforms can be purchased via S&S Clothing: [click here to access the uniform suppliers website](#).

Further examples of the correct uniform can be found here [Uniform 2025-26](#)

Equipment Expectations Reminder

All scholars must have the following equipment in their bag each day:

- Scholar planner (*provided at onboarding*)
- Knowledge Organiser Folder (*Black for Years 7–10, provided in the first week, White for Year 11 – already distributed*)

- 1 x clear pencil case with the following contents:
 - 2 x black or blue writing pens
 - 1 x green pen
 - 1 x purple pen
 - 1 x pencil
 - 1 x highlighter
 - A ruler
 - A rubber

A fully stocked pencil case will be provided at the start of term. Lost or damaged items must be replaced by the scholar/family.

Entrance and Exit for Scholars from September

Scholar safety remains a top priority, particularly during arrivals and departures. As both entrances are near busy roads, please note the following:

- Morning Entry:
 - Scholars must arrive before 8:25am via the main gate or Pitt Street entrance.
 - Gates open from 8:00am.
 - Entry is via the Heartspace doors; reception will not be accessible.
- Afternoon Exit:
 - Scholars will be escorted to line-up by their Form Tutor and dismissed via the main or Pitt Street gates.
 - Exit through the building is not permitted, except for scholars involved in supervised extracurricular activities.

Pastoral Changes for September

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the pastoral support we offer, we have refined our internal structures ahead of the new academic year. From September, each year group will have a dedicated Pastoral Year Leader who will take the lead in supporting the scholars in their year group. This person will also serve as the main point of contact for any pastoral concerns.

In addition, we have strengthened support around key points of academic transition to ensure scholars are fully supported in their progress and development with Mrs Hedley moving to oversee this aspect of our work in Year 10 and Y11 as the KS4 Academic Year Leader and Mr Utley moving to support the incoming Year 7s as their Progress Leader.

We are also introducing a new Scholar Support facility, which will operate like a 'help desk' for scholars. This will provide immediate assistance for day-to-day needs, such as contacting home to top up lunch accounts or accessing first aid.

Role	Name	Email contact
Year 7 Pastoral Year Leader	Ms Neave	Y7PYL@astreanetherwood.org
Year 8 Pastoral Year Leader	Mr Hunter	Y8PYL@astreanetherwood.org
Year 9 Pastoral Year Leader	Mr Davis	Y9PYL@astreanetherwood.org
Year 10 Pastoral Year Leader	Mr Kneissl	Y10PYL@astreanetherwood.org
Year 11 Pastoral Year Leader	Mrs Moxon	Y11PYL@astreanetherwood.org
Scholar Services		scholarservices@astreanetherwood.org

Please be aware that the vast majority of school staff will not be working during the summer holidays. If you need to contact the school for any reason, please do so via email at: contact@astreanetherwood.org; messages will be monitored periodically throughout the break.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer. I'm sure you will join me in taking a moment to thank the staff at Netherwood for their unwavering commitment to our scholars and their tremendous efforts throughout the year. I will look back on my time at Netherwood with great fondness and pride. Thank you for your continued support of the academy and its mission to become a truly great school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jonny Mitchell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonny Mitchell
Principal