



## Key Dates

**2<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

Meet the New Leadership Team

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb**

DofE Parent Meeting, 6-7pm

**9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Children's Mental Health Week

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Year 10 Parents Evening

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Jump Works/  
Bongo Bingo Attendance

Rewards Day

**16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Half Term -  
Return Monday  
23<sup>rd</sup> February

Please check at home/in bags for overdue library books.

Book and Board Game donations are welcome.

**Showcase**

**Star**

Francesca C - for knowing all of her lines already!

## Principals Message

Thank you to all the parents who have already welcomed me into Accrington Academy. I look forward to meeting many more of you on Monday 2nd February at 6.00pm. This will be a great opportunity for me to share my vision for the Academy and for you to meet my Vice Principals and our newly appointed Community Leader.

It has been a busy and exciting week across the school. Our Year 7 football team put in a valiant performance against St. Christopher's on Thursday after school. Although the result didn't go our way, the team showed tremendous determination and spirit, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

In addition to our sporting achievements, we are continuing to celebrate excellent attendance. Letters have now gone out for the Jumpworks 100% Attendance Trip, and early next week we will also be sending invitations to our Premier League Division Attenders for our first-ever Bongo Bingo event — an exciting new celebration for students who have shown outstanding commitment to being in school.

This week's assemblies, delivered by our Humanities team, also provided students with a meaningful opportunity to reflect. Focusing on the Holocaust, these sessions were thoughtful, respectful, and deeply moving, encouraging students to consider this significant part of history with maturity and compassion.

We are also pleased to share that AM lateness continues to decline. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support — your efforts with routines, punctuality, and communication make a real difference to students' learning and wellbeing.

Beyond the classroom, I am committed to ensuring all students benefit from a rich programme of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. I am delighted that so many staff are going above and beyond to create experiences that promote belonging and wellbeing. A special mention goes to Mr Weir's AA Extra Darts Club, which has become a surprise hit, attracting huge interest across the Academy. Due to its popularity, we are now ordering additional dartboards so even more students can get involved! We also have a group of students and staff attending a Blackburn Rovers match this weekend — I hope it's an exciting game for all who are going!

Finally, as part of our continued support for Year 11, students will soon be able to access a designated lunchtime revision area. Spaces will be limited each day, so those wishing to attend should see Mrs Smith to collect a ticket.

I wish you all a lovely weekend!

**Melanie Haselden**  
Executive Principal

## Messages

### KS3 Homework Update

KS3 students complete weekly Sparx tasks:

- Reader: Monday
- Science: Tuesday
- Maths: Wednesday

EEF research shows homework can add up to 5 months' extra progress, so your support at home makes a real difference.

Students completing all three tasks enter our weekly prize draw.

Winners this week:

- Y7: Isabella M, Zayn A
- Y8: Josh N, Imaan Fatima B
- Y9: Caitlin L, Taylah S-V

Well done!

## House Competitions

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Pictionary**

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb - Basketball**



**The Breakfast Club**  
Starting your day the TeamAA way!



**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**7:30-8:10**

**FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE**

Meet the   
**New Leadership Team**



Together we listen, learn, and lead.



**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**



**6:00pm**



Light refreshments on arrival

## Are you thinking about taking your child out of school for a holiday in term time?

Parents are strongly advised to avoid taking their children on leave during term-time. Parents do not have an automatic right to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. If your child is absent for 10 school days, they will miss 5% of their education during that academic year.

Parents wishing to request leave during term-time for their child **MUST** arrange a meeting with the Attendance team to complete a Leave of Absence Request Form.

Please be aware that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, your request to take your child out of school during term time for a family holiday will not be authorised and this could lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued.

### 1. Unauthorised leave less than 15 school days:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

### 2. Unauthorised leave of 15 school days or more:

- The Local Authority will look to prosecute parents and not offer the opportunity to pay a penalty notice fine.
- Failure to ensure a child's regular attendance at school is a criminal offence, and this means that if parents/carers are convicted, this could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and they will have a criminal record. If a student fails to return on the date given and contact with the parents has not been made or received, Accrington Academy will remove the student from the school's roll in compliance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. This means that the child will lose their place at Accrington Academy.

# Every lesson counts

## Great attendance means...

being in school at least 97% of the time

**Remember**  
Education is important - don't miss out!



...being in school, on time, every day, ready to learn



**Did you know?**  
If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed a full **2 weeks** of school in one year?

