

**“Everything is possible for one who believes”**

MARK 9:23

**Bradford Forster Academy**  
A Church of England Academy



DST/RMW

May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of my first half term as Headteacher of Bradford Forster Academy, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you directly and to thank you for the support and welcome you have shown me since I joined the school community.

Over the past five weeks, I have spent a great deal of time visiting lessons, speaking with pupils and staff, meeting families, and getting to know the wider school community. I have seen many things that make me proud to be part of Bradford Forster Academy. I have met polite, kind and talented young people, committed staff who care deeply about our pupils, and families who want the very best for their children.

I have also been reflecting carefully on what our school can become.

I believe passionately that every child in our community deserves an exceptional education. They deserve classrooms where learning is purposeful and disruption is rare. They deserve an environment that is calm, safe and respectful. They deserve teachers who can teach without interruption and pupils who can learn without distraction. Most importantly, they deserve a school that has the highest ambitions for their future — something I know you share with me.

That is why, over the coming months and years, we will continue to strengthen standards, routines and expectations across all areas of school life. This is not about being harsh or punitive. It is about creating the conditions where every child can succeed academically, socially and personally.

I make no apology for having very high expectations. I know the young people of Bradford Forster Academy are capable of great things and I hope that, together, we can build a school community where excellence becomes the norm in every classroom, every corridor and every conversation.

**Headteacher: Mr D Styles**

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## Key Updates for Families (Summary)

- New school day timings from Monday 22nd June, including all pupils expected on site by 8:25am
- Continued focus on high standards, routines and punctuality
- Phone-free school from Monday 29th June through secure phone pouches (pupils bringing a phone keep possession of their own device within the locked pouch, but are not able to use it during the school day)
- Reinforced expectations around uniform and jewellery
- Increased focus on preventing energy and fizzy drinks being brought onto site

Partnership with parents and carers is essential if we are to achieve this. Schools are strongest when families and staff work together with shared expectations and shared ambition for children. I therefore wanted to use this letter not only to thank you for your support so far, but also to outline some important developments and reminders ahead of the final half term of the academic year.

## Changes to the School Day – From Monday 22nd June

Following careful planning and consultation, we will be moving to a revised school day structure from Monday 22nd June.

The new structure introduces a clearer and more consistent rhythm to the day, with five one-hour lessons, a single break and a single lunch period. The new structure is designed to improve learning time, movement around school and the overall school experience for pupils.

### The school day will run as follows:

<b>8:15am - 8:25am</b>	<b>Optional Breakfast Provision</b>
<b>8:25am</b>	<b>All pupils expected on site</b>
<b>8:30am - 9:00am</b>	<b>Registration/Form Time</b>
<b>9:00am - 10:00am</b>	<b>Period 1</b>
<b>10:00am - 11:00am</b>	<b>Period 2</b>
<b>11:00am - 11:20am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11:20am - 12:20pm</b>	<b>Period 3</b>
<b>12:20pm - 1:20pm</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
<b>1:20pm - 2:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:00pm - 3:00pm</b>	<b>Period 5</b>
<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>End of School Day</b>

Importantly, our free breakfast provision will continue each morning from 8:15am–8:25am for any pupils who wish to access it.

However, all pupils will be expected to be on site by 8:25am and in their form rooms ready for registration at 8:30am. Punctuality matters. Arriving calmly and on time helps pupils settle positively into the day and ensures learning starts promptly.

We understand that any change to routines requires careful preparation. Significant investment has already been made to ensure that catering capacity and resources are sufficient to support the new arrangements successfully. Pupils will be guided carefully through these changes before implementation and staff will support them throughout the transition.

## **Mobile Phone Pouches – From Monday 29th June**

As previously communicated, Bradford Forster Academy will become a phone-free school from Monday 29th June through the introduction of secure phone pouches.

This is a very significant and important step forward for our school.

Research nationally has consistently shown that removing mobile phones from the school day improves concentration, behaviour, safeguarding, wellbeing and the quality of social interaction between young people. Schools that have implemented similar systems have seen significant improvements in learning and behaviour.

Our decision is not about punishing pupils or removing technology from young people's lives. It is about ensuring that when pupils are in school, their attention is focused on learning, relationships, conversation, sport, creativity and personal development - not social media, notifications or online distractions.

Pupils will still be able to bring phones to school for safety while travelling, but devices will be secured in pouches during the school day and unlocked at the end of the day. As there has been a recent move towards a complete ban on mobile phones in all schools nationally, our early planning and actions mean that we have prioritised the safety of our pupils, listened carefully to the views of parents and implemented what we believe is a purposeful and realistic solution.

I know that change can sometimes create uncertainty, but I firmly believe this initiative will have a transformational impact on the culture of the school and the quality of pupils' daily experience. I appreciate the support many parents have already shown for this decision and ask for your continued backing as we implement this important change.

## **Uniform and Jewellery Expectations**

I would also like to thank the overwhelming majority of families who continue to support our uniform and jewellery expectations.

Standards matter. A smart, consistent appearance helps foster pride, belonging and readiness to learn. It also ensures that staff time is focused on education rather than repeated conversations around uniform compliance.

As a reminder, pupils may wear:

- One pair of small stud earrings
- One wristwatch

The following are not permitted in school unless previously agreed for specific religious reasons:

- Any other jewellery
- Facial piercings

We ask for your support in ensuring pupils arrive at school ready to meet these expectations. Where expectations are not met, we will apply our behaviour policy consistently and appreciate your support in addressing these matters before pupils arrive at school each morning.

Our aim is always to minimise conflict and maximise learning time so that staff can focus fully on teaching and pupils can focus fully on learning.

## **Energy Drinks and Fizzy Drinks**

I would also like to remind families that pupils should not be bringing energy drinks or fizzy drinks into school or drinking them during the school day.

These drinks are not appropriate within the school environment and can contribute negatively to pupils' health, concentration and behaviour throughout the day.

From June we will refocus on enforcing this expectation. Pupils arriving at school with energy drinks or fizzy drinks will be expected to dispose of them before entering the school site. Similarly, any seen during the day will also be disposed of immediately.

I appreciate your support in having these conversations with your child in advance so that we can avoid unnecessary confrontation at the school gates and maintain a calm and positive start to the day for all pupils.

### **A Message to Year 11**

Finally, I want to say how incredibly proud we are of our Year 11 pupils.

They have made an exceptional start to their GCSE examination period and have conducted themselves with maturity, determination and resilience. Examinations can be challenging and emotionally demanding, but they have approached this important time with real focus and commitment.

These examinations represent the culmination of more than eleven years of education and the hard work pupils have invested over many years. The qualifications they achieve will help open doors, create opportunities and shape future pathways into further education, employment and training.

To all of our Year 11 pupils: keep going, stay focused, believe in yourselves and finish strongly. Your hard work now can have a lasting impact on your future, and we are all incredibly proud of you.

### **Looking Ahead**

I genuinely believe Bradford Forster Academy has enormous potential and I feel incredibly optimistic about the future of our school.

The journey ahead will require consistency, ambition, resilience and teamwork from all of us. There will be times where we challenge pupils more strongly, raise expectations further and ask for greater consistency from everyone in our community. We do this because we care deeply about giving every child the best possible future.

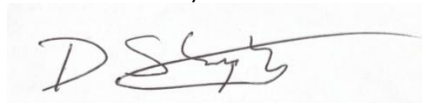
By working together with clear expectations, strong routines and high ambition, I believe we can continue to improve outcomes for every pupil and build a school that this community is proud of — a school where pupils feel safe, inspired and successful, and where young people leave not only with qualifications, but with character, confidence and ambition.

I hope you will continue to support us in this work and speak positively with your child over the half term break about the importance of high standards, excellent attendance, punctuality, kindness, respect and making the very most of every opportunity available to them.

Thank you once again for the support and welcome you have shown me during my first half term as Headteacher. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in the months and years ahead.

I wish all our pupils and their families a safe, restful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Styles  
Headteacher