



Ref: NKE/JWA NA-P 0925.0g

05 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

### **Welcome to the New Academic Year 2025 - 2026**

As we enter into the academic year 2025 – 2026, I would like to start by welcoming our new Year 7 students to the Academy. It has been an absolute pleasure to meet the new year group and to see what an incredible start to secondary school they have made. We very much look forward to supporting them through their Thistley Hough journey.

#### **Year 11 Information**

This year will be a significant time for our Year 11 students as they enter into their final year in secondary education. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them luck throughout the upcoming months and encourage them to work hard, and to commit themselves to achieving the very best that they can during their final examinations in the summer term. Parents and carers of students in Year 11 will have received an invite to our 'Welcome to Year 11 Evening' due to take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 commencing at 4:30pm, where we will share further information and important dates for the upcoming year. If your child is in Year 11, please ensure to join us on this evening.

#### **Year 9 Information**

Similarly, Year 9 is a pivotal time for students at the Academy as they begin selecting their option subjects, marking a significant step towards shaping their academic and career paths. This decision-making process allows them to explore subjects they are passionate about or excel in, laying the groundwork for future academic achievements and career aspirations. Choosing the right mix of subjects not only enhances their academic skills but also fosters personal growth and self-discovery. It is crucial because these choices can influence their opportunities for higher education and career choices later on. We look forward to sharing more information regarding this during our Year 9 Parents'/Options Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Full details will follow nearer the time.

#### **Year 6 – 7 Transition**

We will also be starting the process of recruiting our new Year 7 students for September 2026 and **we would urge early applications for student entry**. Open Evening for prospective students is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 4:30pm until 7:00pm. Even if you have attended an Open Evening in the past, please do join us again on this evening if you have younger children who will be transitioning to secondary education in 2026. Please also feel free to encourage prospective students, families, and friends to attend so that they can see our excellent facilities and explore further the opportunities that



Thistley Hough can offer to support and nourish the education and success of all young people.

### **Urgent plea/reminder**

Please could I take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of not causing an obstruction by illegal or inconsiderate parking on Thistley Hough or Newcastle Lane when dropping off or collecting your child/children from school. Our neighbours have at times reported difficulty with access to their driveways, and we have witnessed the build-up of cars causing a hazard for students crossing the road. We would also request that students **are not** dropped off or collected from the visitor's car park as this causes obstruction and poses further health and safety risks. Consequently, **I urge all parents/carers to use the designated drop off and pick up zone on the lower car park at all times which is accessible from Newcastle Lane.** I would like to thank the vast majority of you for your cooperation with regard to the use of this area at the start and the end of the school day. We appreciate that there are times when this area is particularly busy, but the safety and well-being of our students, as always, remains paramount.

### **Communication**

All whole school letters can be found on our website at [thistleyhoughacademy - Letters to Parents](#) and we regularly update our social media platforms with news and events that take place at the Academy. If you would like communication via any other channels or would like to suggest further ways of us communicating with parents/carers and the community, please email the school at the above address and we will ensure to consider all appropriate platforms.

Finally, for your convenience please find a reminder of the times of the school day and holiday dates for this academic year below, along with uniform information and basic expectations.

Thank you for your support.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noel Kennedy'.

Noel Kennedy  
Principal



## Term Dates 2025 – 2026

### Autumn 2025

<b>Academy opens to staff only INSET Days</b>	<b>Monday 01 September &amp; Tuesday 02 September</b>
<b>Academy opens to students in Years 7, 10 &amp; 11 only</b>	Wednesday 03 September
<b>Academy open to students in all Year Groups</b>	Thursday 04 September
<b>Academy closes</b>	Friday 24 October
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October</b>
<b>Academy opens</b>	Monday 03 November
<b>Academy closes</b>	Friday 19 December
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 22 December to Friday 02 January</b>

### Spring 2026

<b>Academy open to staff only INSET Day</b>	<b>Monday 05 January</b>
<b>Academy opens to students</b>	Tuesday 06 January
<b>Academy closes</b>	Friday 13 February
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February</b>
<b>Academy opens</b>	Monday 23 February
<b>Academy closes to students</b>	Thursday 26 March
<b>Academy open to staff only INSET DAY</b>	<b>Friday 27 March</b> <i>*Subject to change – TBC</i>
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April</b>

### Summer 2026

<b>Academy opens</b>	Monday 13 April
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 04 May</b>
<b>Academy closes</b>	Friday 22 May
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May</b>
<b>Academy opens</b>	Monday 01 June
<b>Academy closes to students</b>	Friday 17 July
<b>Summer Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August</b>

### INSET Days

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (*\*subject to change – TBC*)
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026



## Times of the Day

Time	Activity/Period
08:20am	Warning Bell/Whistle
08:25am	Roll Call
8:30am - 8.50am	Tutor Time
8:50am - 9:50am	Period 1
9:50am - 10:50am	Period 2
10:50am – 11:05am	Break
11:05am – 12:05pm	Period 3
12:05pm – 1:05pm	Period 4
1:05pm – 1:45pm	Lunch
1:40pm	Roll Call
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Period 5

## General Information

### Uniform and PE Uniform

Students are required to wear full academy uniform at all times, including blazers.

- Purple blazer with school badge
- A plain white shirt with stiff collar and a top button
- School tie
- Grey, plain, **(non-branded)** V-neck school jumper **(optional)**
- Grey school trousers **(not leggings, tight fitted trousers or jeans)**
- Grey 'A' line school skirt – knee length **(tight fitted skirts are not acceptable)**
- Religious headwear such as turbans, hijabs, niqabs etc may be worn. The colour selected should resemble the school colours, grey, purple or white **(scarves with tassels and embroidery are not acceptable)**
- Plain black or grey tights or socks **(socks must be below the knee)**
- Plain black leather/leather looking flat shoes **(not platforms, boots, trainers, or any sports/fashion branded footwear. Canvas shoes or pumps are not allowed)**
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Hooded tops and fashion jumpers are not permitted

### PE

- Academy PE polo shirt (optional but preferable) or black t-shirt, black sports leggings, track pants or shorts (without large prints and logos)

### Uniform Suppliers

Clive Mark Schoolwear 13-14 Lancaster Building Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 1PG  Tel: 01782 980676	Smart Uniform Shop Hassell Street Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 1AR  Tel: 01782 713650	National Schoolwear Centre 99/101 Stafford Street Hanley Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1LS  Tel: 01782 272991
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High street stores and supermarkets will also sell several of our academy uniform items including white shirts, V-neck jumpers, trousers, skirts and shoes. Please ensure you fully understand our uniform policy before purchasing any items and contact the Academy if you are unsure.



### Jewellery, Hairstyles and Make Up

Any jewellery worn is considered non-essential and must be removable. All jewellery worn is the sole responsibility of the student.

- Small metal or diamond studs may be worn in the ears
- A plain metal, removable nose stud can be worn. **(No other facial piercings are permitted)**
- Students are required to attend school with an appropriate hairstyle that cannot be considered extreme; this is at the discretion of the Principal.
- Makeup should be natural and minimalistic.
- Extended false nails are not permitted due to health and safety concerns.

### Basic Equipment

Students need to be prepared for learning by attending the Academy with the correct basic equipment. This ensures that lessons can begin swiftly and without delay. As such, students are required to bring the following equipment:

- A school bag that can hold several A4 books **(small side bags are not allowed)**
- A pencil case
- Black or blue ballpoint pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- A reading book, in line with their current reading level

It is compulsory that each student always has their basic equipment with them.

### Mobile Phones/Ear Buds

The use of mobile phones and ear buds by students is strictly prohibited at the Academy and as such, students are not permitted to use mobile phones and ear buds during the academy day. Any mobile phones brought onto the Academy premises are done so at the student's own risk and the Academy will not accept responsibility or liability for loss of, or damage to the items when brought onto the site. Mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight at all times. Any student seen with or seen using a mobile phone or ear buds whilst on the Academy premises will have the items confiscated and can be collected at the end of the school day.

Any student who urgently requires the use of a phone during the Academy Day, will be allowed to use the Academy phone, dependent upon the circumstances. Likewise, should you need to contact your child in an emergency, please use the Academy main contact number 01782 883500.

### Energy Drinks

We would like to remind all students and parents/carers that **energy drinks** of any variety or brand are **not permitted on the Academy site or premises**. Any energy drinks brought into school will be confiscated.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our students.