



Ref: MLA/JWA OHT-1025.LS

15 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

October Half-Term / Important Information

It has been a very busy start to the academic year 2025 – 2026, and as we fast approach the end of the first half term, I write to remind you that **the Academy will close for the half term break at 2:45pm on Friday 24th October. The Academy will re-open on Monday 3rd November at 8:20am.** Students should be prompt and fully prepared for Roll Call at 8:20am, in full school uniform, with all basic equipment for learning.

Year 7 September 2026 Applications

I would like to take this opportunity to inform prospective parents/carers that we have started the process of recruiting our new Year 7 students for September 2026 and **we would urge applications for student entry as soon as possible.** The deadline for Year 7 admission applications is 31st October 2025. We are expecting a high demand for places for next year, so please make sure to enter your application as soon as possible. To apply for a place for your child at Thistley Hough Academy for September 2026 please go to:

https://www.stoke.gov.uk/homepage/191/secondary_school_admissions

Good Luck Year 11

This year will be a significant time for our Year 11 students as they enter into the final part of their journey in secondary education. Year 11 assessments will commence on Monday 3rd November and will run until Wednesday 12th November (inclusive). All students will be informed of the assessment schedule closer to the start date. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 students good luck throughout the upcoming months and encourage them to work hard, and to commit themselves to preparing for the very best outcomes during their final examinations in the summer term.

Confirmed INSET Day/Date – March 2026

As highlighted in correspondence at the start of the year, the INSET day planned for March 2026, was subject to change. We have now been able to confirm that this INSET day will take place on **Friday 20th March 2026.** Thank you for your patience whilst we confirmed this date. For your convenience, please find a reminder of the times of the school day, holiday dates and confirmed INSET days for this academic year, included overleaf.



Considerate and Safe Parking around the Academy

When picking up or dropping off students at the start and end of the school day, please be considerate of residents living on Thistley Hough, Barnfield, The Croft, and the surrounding areas. To help reduce congestion and ensure the safety of both students and local residents, families are encouraged to use the designated **one-way pick-up and drop-off zone** located in the main academy car park, accessible from **Newcastle Lane**. This area has been designed to allow children to enter and leave vehicles safely and efficiently, while helping to keep local roads clear and minimising disruption for those who live nearby. Your cooperation and courtesy are greatly appreciated in maintaining a safe and respectful environment for everyone in our community.

As always, thank you for your continued support for Thistley Hough Academy.

With very best wishes

Michelle Lawrence
Interim Principal



Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Autumn 2025

Academy closes	Friday 24 October
Half Term	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October
Academy opens	Monday 03 November
Academy closes	Friday 19 December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 December to Friday 02 January

Spring 2026

Academy open to <u>staff only</u> INSET Day	Monday 05 January
Academy opens to students	Tuesday 06 January
Academy closes	Friday 13 February
Half Term	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February
Academy opens	Monday 23 February
Academy closes to students	Thursday 26 March
Academy open to <u>staff only</u> INSET DAY	Friday 20 March
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April

Summer 2026

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

Remaining INSET Days (Academy open to staff only)

- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 20th March 2026 (*revised/confirmed date*)
- Monday 20th 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