



Ref: MLA/JWA OHT-1026.LS

19 October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

October Half-Term / Important Information

After a very exciting and rewarding start to the academic year 2026 – 2027, I write to remind you that **the Academy will close for the half term break at 2:45pm on Friday 23rd October. The Academy will re-open on Monday 2nd 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, including their mobile phone pouches.

Year 7

Starting secondary school is an important milestone and it has been wonderful to see how quickly and positively our newest students have adjusted to this next chapter of their education over this first half term. Since joining us, they have embraced our school values of respect, resilience, and responsibility, and have demonstrated enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved in academy life. They have settled in remarkably well, forming new friendships and adapting confidently to new subjects, teachers and routines. We are delighted with the progress they have already made and are excited to support them throughout the years ahead as they make the most of every opportunity available to them.

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 Pre-Public Examinations (Mock Exams) will commence on Monday 16th November and will run until Friday 27th November (inclusive). All students will be informed of their PPE timetable 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.

Mobile Phone Pouches

As with any significant change there was an initial period of adjustment to the new system. However, students have adapted quickly to the use of the Hush phone pouches and have embraced the new routine positively. The initiative has helped to



reduce distractions during the school day, enabling students to focus more effectively in lessons and engage more with their peers during social times. We are extremely proud of how responsibly our students have responded to this change and would like to thank both students and families for their support in making the introduction of the Hush pouches such a success.

Thinking Ahead to Secondary School?

For families with children due to transfer to secondary school in September 2027, the application window for Year 7 admissions is now open. We are looking forward to meeting the next generation of Thistley Hough students and encourage parents/carers to submit their preferences before the deadline of 31st October 2026. As places remain popular, early applications are recommended. Applications can be made at: https://www.stoke.gov.uk/homepage/191/secondary_school_admissions

Helping to Keep Our Students and Community Safe

We would like to thank the many families who already use our designated drop-off and pick-up facilities and support our efforts to keep the surrounding area safe and accessible.

When travelling to and from the Academy, please continue to show consideration for residents living nearby, particularly on Thistley Hough, Barnfield, The Croft and adjoining roads. The one-way drop-off zone in the main academy car park, accessed via Newcastle Lane, provides a safe and efficient location for students to be collected and dropped off while helping to ease congestion in the local area.

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

With very best wishes

Michelle Lawrence
Principal



Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Autumn 2026

Academy closes	Friday 23 October
Half Term	Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October
Academy opens	Monday 02 November
Academy closes	Friday 18 December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 December to Friday 01 January

Spring 2027

Academy open to staff only INSET Day	Monday 04 January
Academy opens to students	Tuesday 05 January
Academy closes	Friday 12 February
Half Term	Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February
Academy opens	Monday 22 February
Academy open to staff only INSET Day	Tuesday 09 March
Academy closes to students	Thursday 25 March
Easter Holiday	Friday 26 March to Friday 09 April

Summer 2027

Academy open to staff only INSET Day	Monday 12 April
Academy opens to students	Tuesday 13 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 03 May
Academy closes	Friday 28 May
Half Term	Monday 31 May to Friday 04 June
Academy opens	Monday 07 June
Academy closes to students	Wednesday 21 July
Summer Holiday	Thursday 22 July to Wednesday 01 September

INSET Days – Academy closed to students:

- Monday 04 January 2027
- Tuesday 09 March 2027
- Monday 12 April 2027

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

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