

THISTLEY HOUGH
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**THISTLEY HOUGH
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Ref: NKE/JWA NA-P 0923.0g

12 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to the new Academic Year 2023 - 2024

I write to welcome you to the new academic year 2023 – 2024. I would like to start by welcoming our new Year 7 students to the Academy. They have made an incredible start to secondary school, and we very much look forward to supporting them through their Thistley Hough journey.

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 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/carers of students in Year 11 will have received an invite to our 'Welcome to Year 11' evening on Thursday 14th September, 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.

We will also be starting the process of recruiting our new Year 7 students for September 2024 and **we would urge early applications for student entry**. A range of small group and individual tours, in addition to our traditional Open Evening, will be taking place over the coming weeks. Open Evening for prospective students is scheduled for Wednesday 20th September, 4:30pm until 7:00pm. Please 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

I would like to thank the vast majority of you for your cooperation with regard to the use of the drop off and pick up zone on the lower car park 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.

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. 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. Therefore, **I urge all parents/carers to use the designated drop off and pick up area at all times which is accessible from Newcastle Lane.**



Communication

All whole school letters can be found on our website at

<https://www.thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk/parents/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 attached, along with basic expectations.

Thank you for your support. I very much look forward to the academic year ahead.

With very best wishes

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

Noel Kennedy
Principal



Term Dates 2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023	Dates
Academy open to staff only (INSET Days)	Monday 04 September & Tuesday 05 September
Academy opens to students in Years 7 & 11	Wednesday 06 September
Academy open to students in all Year Groups	Thursday 07 September
Academy closes	Friday 27 October
Half Term	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November
Academy opens	Monday 06 November
Academy closes	Friday 22 December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 December to Friday 05 January

Spring Term 2024	Dates
Academy open to staff only (INSET Day)	Monday 08 January
Academy opens to students	Tuesday 09 January
Academy closes	Friday 09 February
Half Term	Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February
Academy opens	Monday 19 February
Academy closes	Friday 22 March
Easter Holiday	Monday 25 March to Friday 05 April

Summer Term 2024	Dates
Academy opens	Monday 08 April
INSET/Moderation Day	Monday 15 April (details TBC)
Polling Day	Thursday 02 May (closure for some year groups – TBC)
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 06 May
Academy closes	Friday 24 May
Half Term	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
Academy opens	Monday 03 June
Academy closes to students	Friday 19 July
Academy open to staff only INSET Day	Monday 22 July
Summer Holiday	Tuesday 23 July to Friday 30 August

INSET Days

Monday 08 January 2024
 Monday 15 April 2024 - (INSET/Moderation Day)
 Monday 22 July 2024



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

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)**
- Students are required to attend school with an appropriate hairstyle that cannot be considered extreme; this is at the discretion of the Interim Principal and the Associate Principal
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Hooded tops and fashion jumpers are not permitted
- Makeup should be natural and minimalistic
- Extended false nails are not permitted due to health and safety concerns

Jewellery

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

- Small metal or diamanté studs may be worn in the ears
- A plain metal, removable nose stud can be worn. **(No other facial piercings are permitted)**

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 clear 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 school 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 school 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.