



Headteacher

Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 3QW

Mr P. Walklate BSc(Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

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Dear Families,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all of our students. It has been wonderful to see the Academy filled with energy once again, and I know staff have been looking forward to welcoming our young people back through the gates.

I would also like to offer a special welcome to all families who are joining Erasmus Darwin Academy (EDA) for the first time this year. Starting a new school can be both exciting and daunting, but I want to reassure you that our commitment remains the same for every child who joins our community. At EDA, our vision of Hard Work, High Aspirations and Limitless Opportunities continues to be at the heart of everything we do, and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's journey with us.

Welcome to New Staff

As we begin the new academic year, we are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to Team EDA or wish existing members of staff luck in their new roles. Their expertise and enthusiasm will strengthen our provision and help us continue providing the very best education and opportunities for our students.

- Mr Cartman (Teacher of Mathematics)
- Miss Bullen (Teacher of Mathematics)
- Miss Wautier (Teacher of Science)
- Mrs Evans (Subject Leader of Modern Foreign Languages)
- Miss Sims (Teacher of Geography)
- Miss Freeman (Teacher of Design & Technology)
- Mrs Dickerson (Assistant SENDCo)

We also wish the following staff good luck in their new roles:

- Mrs Broadway (Subject Leader of English)
- Mr Green (Lead Teacher of Mathematics)
- Mrs Allen Stcok (Lead Teacher of Biology)
- Mrs Perry (Lead Teacher of English)

Uniform and Equipment

A positive start to the school day begins with students being organised and prepared to learn. As I regularly communicate, culture defines our Academy. High standards in uniform and presentation help create an environment where students can thrive and succeed. As part of our continued focus on standards, uniform expectations will be checked upon arrival each morning. Students who arrive without the correct uniform will be directed to Heighway's Hut where any issues will be addressed before they enter the Academy. We ask all families to ensure students arrive each day in full Academy uniform and equipped with the necessary equipment for learning.





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Mobile Phones

As families are aware, there has been significant national focus on the use of mobile phones in schools. We continue to operate a clear and consistent approach which supports learning, safeguards students and promotes positive social interaction throughout the school day.

Students must not use mobile phones during the Academy day. Upon arrival at school, mobile phones must be secured in student lockers and remain there until the end of the school day. This expectation is fully aligned with national expectations regarding mobile phone use in schools and will be enforced consistently by all staff.

In addition, I would like to remind families that all Year 7 students have been issued with a locker and locker key. Mobile phones must be placed securely in these lockers upon arrival each morning and remain there until the end of the school day.

We have made the decision to apply the following regarding sanctions linked to mobile phones:

- Any student, unless exempt, who is found in possession of their mobile phone during the Academy Day will be required to hand their phone in. The phone will then be stored in a securely locked padded box until a parent collects their phone. This includes Sixth Form students.
- Any student, unless exempt, who refuses to hand in their phone should they be found in possession during the Academy Day will be placed in Reset for defiance. Any student who refuses to comply with the Reset request will be issued with a suspension.

We appreciate the support of families in ensuring that students understand and comply with these expectations. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we create a calmer environment where students can focus fully on their learning and interactions with others.

Key Dates

Please find below some key dates for the first part of the academic year. Families are encouraged to add these to their calendars.

17th to 19th September – DofE Silver Expedition
18th to 19th September – DofE Bronze Expedition
21st September – School Photographer (Year 7,9,11,12,13)
22nd September – SEND Information Evening
24th September – Work Experience Meetings (Year 10 & 12)
28th September – Year 7 Road Safety Talk
1st October – Year 6 Open Evening
5th October to 7th October – GCSE Food Practical
8th October – Year 7 Meet The Tutor
20th October – Autumn Recital
22nd October – Year 7 & 8 Halloween Disco

Further reminders regarding relevant events will continue to be communicated through EduLink throughout the year.





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Looking Ahead

As we begin this new academic year, I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead for our Academy community. Last year demonstrated what can be achieved when students, staff and families work together with a shared commitment to success, and I know this year will provide even more opportunities for our young people to flourish. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will ensure that Erasmus Darwin Academy remains a place where students are challenged, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. We will continue to communicate with families and share updates via EduLink. Allowing you to view your child's information including attendance and rewards. We encourage students to have this app on their phones to enable them to access their timetable in order to prepare for the day.

I look forward to celebrating the many successes, achievements and memorable moments that the year ahead will undoubtedly bring. We are excited for the year ahead and all of the amazing things that our students and staff will achieve.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Walklate
Headteacher

