

TLA / GPA

27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the start of the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some key information and the arrangements for the return to school.

### First day back arrangements

All **Year 7 students** should arrive at school **by 8.40am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. **Year 10 Peer Mentors** should also arrive **by 8.40am** to support the Year 7 students.

**All other students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should arrive at school for the start of Period 3 at 11.15am.** Period 3 will be spent with form tutors, issuing important information and timetables, then lessons will commence in Period 4. Please note that Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September is an INSET Day so students are not required to attend on that day.

### Essential Equipment

At Alec Hunter Academy, we place a lot of importance on helping our students to prepare for life as responsible adults. One of the key responsibilities that we promote is being organised and ready to learn, as this helps lessons to start quickly and purposefully. Therefore, we are asking for your support in ensuring that your child has all the equipment that they need to be fully prepared for their lessons using the equipment checklist below. All items can be purchased very cheaply online or in a local stationery store or supermarket. Several have special 'back to school' reductions at this time of year, so this is a good point at which to stock up with supplies for the year ahead. If you need our support in equipping your child, then please contact your child's Head of Year and we will try to find a way to assist you.

We expect all students to have the following equipment which will be checked on a weekly basis by their Form Tutor and students who do not have the correct essential equipment will have their Responsibility Card marked.

- A minimum of two writing pens (black or blue)
- A green pen
- A pencil
- A ruler
- An eraser
- A scientific calculator (it is important that it is scientific for Maths lessons)
- A protractor
- A compass
- A pencil case in which to keep all the above equipment (we suggest it should be clear if possible as this will meet requirements for public examinations).
- A reading book (students may borrow books from the library and should regularly change their reading book, however it is essential that they have one with them every day).

In addition to the essential equipment detailed above, students are also encouraged to bring the following items of 'desirable' equipment to school each day:

- A selection of highlighters
- Colouring pencils and/or pens
- Glue stick
- Dictionary

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### Timings of the School Day

Further to our communication regarding changes to the school day to accommodate a 2-week October half term, please find below the revised timings which will be in place from the start of the Autumn Term:

Registration	8:40 - 8:50
Period 1	8:50 - 9:55
Period 2	9:55 - 10:55
Break	10:55 - 11:15
Period 3	11:15 - 12:20
Period 4	12:20 - 13:20
Lunch/Movement	13:20 - 14:00
Period 5	14:00 - 15:00
Tutorial/Assembly	15:00 - 15:20

### School Uniform Policy

Whilst our full uniform requirements are listed on our [website](#), I should like to remind you of certain aspects of our uniform policy and should be grateful if you could take the opportunity to ensure that your child has the correct items before the Autumn Term begins. Our policies around uniform are intended to be fair and equitable, minimising social pressure to dress in a particular way, so we feel it is best to be clear and consistent in our expectations.

**Hairstyles:** Our hair is a part of us and the way it is worn may be culturally significant. All hair in its natural form or worn in a culturally traditional way is appropriate at Alec Hunter. Our rules on hair pertain to extremes of style. Our policy states that we will not permit 'any colours (or colour combinations) that are not a natural hair colour.' Alongside this, no extreme hairstyles are permitted and 'the decision regarding what constitutes an extreme hairstyle is at the discretion of the school and students may be sent home to moderate the style or have it changed so that it is in keeping with the expectations of the working environment of the school.' With this in mind, we would ask that you **do not allow your child to dye their hair an unnatural colour**, or have **multicoloured hair braids that are not removeable** before students return to school.

**Jewellery:** Our uniform policy states that 'Jewellery is not permitted' but that students are allowed to wear a watch (not a Smart Watch). As regards piercings, 'a single, plain, small stud in each ear lobe is all that is permitted and a clear nose stud only. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons.' This is for safety reasons. We would therefore request that you **do not allow your child to have multiple piercings** in either ear or both ears while they remain at school. If students have had a new nose or ear piercing, this should have been done **at the start of the summer holidays** as this would have allowed time for it to heal before returning to school. We will insist that piercings are removed for PE lessons, regardless of how recently they have been done.

**Nails and Eyelashes:** With regard to nails and eyelashes, our policy is clear that: 'Coloured nail varnish, fake nails and fake eyelashes are not allowed in any year group.' This includes 'gels' as these are a form of coloured nail varnish.

**Shoes:** Trainers are **not** permitted. Our definition of 'trainers' includes any shoe carrying a sports logo such as Adidas or Nike. Our policy states that footwear for school should be "black low-heeled leather or leather-look shoes, no canvas shoes or boots". Socks and tights should be black also.

**Jumpers:** Jumpers should be plain, black v-neck only. Sweatshirts and other kinds of jumper are not permitted, even if they are black, especially those with logos. Please remember that jumpers should only be worn when the weather turns colder to provide an extra layer of warmth **under the blazer**. They are **not** to be worn as an alternative to the blazer, so it is unlikely that they will be needed in school at the start of term while the weather is still mild.

### Road Safety and Car Parking

We would like to remind parents and carers that the school car parks are for staff only and should not be used to drop off and/or collect students. We would encourage students to walk, or cycle, to school where possible to reduce the volume of traffic in the vicinity of the school, but students who do cycle must do so safely and responsibly. We would also like to remind parents that cycles should be stored securely in our bike compound, inside the school gates, which is locked at 8:40am every morning. Bicycles left outside the gates in the car park are at risk of theft.

We appreciate your support with the above and look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to Alec Hunter on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September or, in the case of our new Year 7 cohort, supporting them with the transition from primary school to secondary school and helping them to feel at home in our community as swiftly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Lawn  
Headteacher