TRINITY ACADEMY
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

4 September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

After 7 weeks - Welcome back!

We have truly missed the energy, warmth, and vibrant spirit that every single one of you brings to our Academy community. You are the heart of everything we do, and we want to remind each of our students and families that you truly belong here.

We hope you all had a fantastic summer break filled with precious time with family and friends, making wonderful memories, and enjoying exciting new experiences.

As we look forward to welcoming everyone back, please note that **all students are expected in the Academy on Monday 7 September 2026 by 08:25 AM**.

Here are some reminders on the important policy updates regarding uniform, behaviour, and enhanced mobile phone expectations for the new term:

- **Mobile Phones**

In line with new statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance becoming effective from 1 September 2026, all schools and academies are required to provide a completely mobile phone-free environment throughout the entire Academy Day. While this reflects statutory national guidance rather than individual Academy preference, it strongly reinforces our commitment to creating calm, safe, and focused classrooms free from disruption and digital distraction. **Students must switch off their phones at the Academy gates upon arrival and keep them off and out of sight throughout the day; they may only switch them back on once they have left the Academy gates at the end of the day.** We fully recognize our large catchment area and want students to have access to their phones for safety and communication on their journeys to and from the Academy. We want to trust our students to make responsible, good choices. However, this situation will be closely monitored. Please note that **any student who goes on their phone at the end of the day while still within the Academy premises will have a confiscation logged and a detention issued.** Repeat offenders will enter an escalation system, with full details available on page 21 of the student planner. If students choose not to follow these expectations, further measures may be required to enforce this law. Staff will not be sanctioning with detentions in the first week we will be having conversations with students breaching the rule to enable them to form good habits, detentions will be issued from week commencing 14 September.

- **Uniform Policy Updates (Temporary Trial)**

Following constructive discussions with our excellent Student Council, we are trialling a temporary amendment to our uniform policy from September until January. Our student council identified through their discussions that piercings and hair up are a barrier for some students to good attendance. As such students will now be permitted to wear their hair down during the Academy Day, provided it remains tidy and off the face (hair must still be tied back for practical subjects such as PE, Science, Technology, Art, and Food for health and safety). Additionally, students may wear clear plastic retainers to maintain new piercings. This trial will be evaluated in January before any permanent decisions are made.

Victoria Gibson Principal

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- **Year 9 Tie & Senior Academy Status**

Students in Year 9 will now be classed as Senior Academy students. As part of this transition, Year 9 students are eligible to wear the Senior Academy tie (which features a blue stripe) purchasable from the Academy shop. Given the recent nature of this change, **there is no requirement for current Year 9 students to purchase this new tie immediately.** However, if you need to replace an existing tie or wish to buy one, you may purchase the Senior Academy version. Please note that from September 2027, all Year 9 students will be required to wear the Senior Academy tie.

- **Revised Behaviour Policy**

From September, our Trust is introducing a revised Behaviour Policy focused on clear, consistent expectations, maintaining positive relationships, and supporting students to reflect on their choices. A key inclusive shift in this policy is offering students a "reset" opportunity before any detention is issued. Full details are available on our Academy website from 01 September 2026.

- **Our new member of the school community**

I am delighted to inform you that, from September 7th, a guide dog will be accompanying a member of our school community on the Trinity Academy site.
Guide dogs are highly trained assistance animals that support blind and partially sighted people and are trained to remain calm, sit quietly with their owner, and not disturb others. As an IQM Flagship school, we are committed to meeting our responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) and ensuring equal access for all members of our community.
If your child has a dog allergy and you have concerns about the presence of a guide dog on site, please refer to the allergy management guidance available on the school website, found here: Information-on-allergies-and-dogs.pdf

- **Equipment**

Students need to be fully equipped for Monday, a gentle reminder on what that looks like here:

- 2 x black/blue pens
- Green Pen
- Purple Pen
- Pencil
- Scientific Calculator
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Highlighter
- Whiteboard Pen
- Pencil Case

Please find overleaf some FAQ's which you may have regarding the content above.

I would like to close with where we began, it is an absolute privilege to educate and care for your children, and we look forward to watching them grow in confidence, character, and achievement over the coming year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Mr R Witty
Vice Principal, Pastoral

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What time do students need to arrive on the first day?

All students are expected to arrive at the Academy by 08:25 AM on Monday 7 September 2026.

Can my child still bring a mobile phone to the Academy?

Yes. We recognize our large catchment area, so students may bring a phone for travel safety to and from the Academy. However, it must remain switched off and out of sight from the moment they enter the Academy gates until they pass back out through the gates at the end of the Academy Day.

When exactly do mobile phones need to be turned off?

Phones must be switched completely off at the Academy gates in the morning before entering Academy grounds. They must remain off and hidden away in bags or pockets throughout the entire Academy Day—including before registration, during lessons, breaktime, lunchtime, and movement between classes. They may only be turned back on once students pass back out through the Academy gates at home time.

Can students use their phones right after the final bell while walking to the gates?

No. Students must remain off their phones while anywhere within the Academy premises. Any student using their phone on Academy grounds before passing through the exit gates at the end of the day will have a confiscation logged and a detention issued. Repeat offenders will enter an escalation system (see page 21 of the student planner).

What if I need to contact my child during the day?

Please contact the Academy office, and our staff will pass on urgent messages to your child.

What if my child needs to contact home?

They should speak to a member of staff, who will arrange contact via the Academy office if necessary.

What happens if my child uses their phone or it is seen or heard?

If a phone is seen, heard, or used without permission, it will be confiscated, behaviour sanctions will be applied, and parents will be informed.

How long will the phone be confiscated?

Confiscation depends on circumstances; persistent or repeated breaches will require a parent or carer to collect the device from the Academy.

What if my child was only checking the time?

Students should use Academy clocks rather than mobile phones. Checking the time on a phone is still a breach of expectations. The mobile phone should be switched off and so the time is not checkable on the phone.

Does this policy apply to smartwatches?

Yes. Smartwatches and devices with messaging, internet, camera, or notification functions are covered by the exact same expectations as mobile phones.

Are there any exceptions to the phone policy?

Yes. Individual exemptions may be formally agreed upon for medical, safeguarding, or specific educational needs.

Why has this statutory guidance been introduced?

To create calm, safe, and focused learning environments, reduce disruption and online harms, promote positive social interaction, and improve overall student wellbeing.

Is this an Academy rule or a legal requirement?

From 1 September 2026, all schools and academies are expected to follow statutory DfE guidance. This is a national statutory requirement rather than an individual Academy preference.

How can I support my child with these changes?

Discuss the reasons with them, encourage healthy digital habits, remind them to switch off phones before entering the Academy gates, support Academy sanctions if applied, and model appropriate phone use.

Does my Year 9 child need to buy a new Senior Academy tie right now?

No. There is no immediate requirement for Year 9 students to buy the new tie with the blue stripe for the 2026–2027 academic year. You only need to purchase one if you are already replacing an old tie. However, the Senior Academy tie will become compulsory for all Year 9 students starting in September 2027.

How long will the new hair and piercing rules stay in place?

The uniform adjustments—wearing hair down (when safe) and clear plastic piercing retainers—are temporary trial measures running from September until January. We will review student feedback and standards in January 2027 before deciding whether to make these changes permanent.