



June 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following my previous letter, I would like to provide you with an update regarding our academy transition days, uniform, parent/carer app (Reach More Parents) and Summer School.

**Year 7 Induction Evening**

Just a reminder that we would like to invite you to the Year 7 Induction Evening. This evening will be held on Thursday 4 July 2024. This event will provide you with important information about your child’s start at The Link Academy in September. The induction evening will begin at 6:00pm.

**Transition Day for Learners**

We very much look forward to welcoming your child to the Link Academy for their Induction Day. The aim of this day is for our new Year 7 group to build confidence and begin to get to know the school and staff. It will also allow your child to ask any questions that they have.

Date:	School:	Time:
Monday 1 July 2024	Year 6 learners from Northfield Road	8.45am – 3:05pm
Tuesday 2 July 2024	Year 6 learners from Sledmere and Netherbrook	8.45am – 3:05pm
Wednesday 3 July 2024	Year 6 learners from Beechwood, Bleakhouse, Bromley-Pensnett Primary, Colley Lane, Dudley Wood, Fairhaven, Great Bridge, Jessons, Kate’s Hill, Milking Bank, Ocker Hill, Old Hill, Reddal Hall, Rowley Hall, Russell’s Hall, Ryder’s Green, St James C of E, Tividale Hall, Woodside and Wren’s Nest	8.45am – 3:05pm
Friday 5 July 2024	Year 6 learners from Blowers Green and Netherton C of E	8.45am – 3:05pm

Year 6 learners will need to arrive via the Hill Street car park entrance on the morning of their induction day. They will then be guided by staff to the Sports Hall or Gym. Your child will need to attend in their primary school uniform as this makes them easily identifiable throughout the day.

Your child will experience five taster lessons during the day as well as an assembly where they will be introduced to key members of staff for their next academic year. A lunch will be provided for them by the Link Academy catering staff, but if you wish to send them with their own sandwiches, then this is fine too.



## The Link Academy

Simms Lane, Netherton, West Midlands. DY2 0PB  
T: 01384 986550 E: [info@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thelinkacademy.org.uk)  
W: [www.thelinkacademy.org.uk](http://www.thelinkacademy.org.uk)  
Principal: Mrs E Edwards-Morgan



Your child will be dismissed from the Link Academy at 3.05pm from the Hill Street Car park. Please make arrangements for their safe journey home. If you arrange for a sibling from The Link Academy to collect them, please inform them that they will have to be collected from the Hill Street car park exit.

### **Year 7 Uniform**

As you are aware, Year 7 Blazers and ties will be gifted, free of charge, to our new learners. The Year 7 blazer supplier for 2024/25 is Crested School Wear, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley, 01384 918 330. Blazers will be available to order from Crested from w/c 8 July 2024. We encourage you to do this at your earliest convenience from the above date to avoid any delays. Please note that you will have to visit the store in person. Please ensure that you take proof of ID with you when you visit the store.

Information on how to get your free tie will follow in due course. We will continue to keep you updated and post further updates on our school website under Parents & Carers > Uniform & Suppliers.

### **PE Kit**

PE Kit is also available from Crested School Wear, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley. The arrangement with Crested allows for kit to be sampled and tried for size in store locally.

The minimum requirement for PE Kit is a branded Polo Shirt and Shorts and plain navy-blue socks. Other branded items are available but are not compulsory. Plain navy-blue items are accepted as an alternative to the non-compulsory items.

For additional guidance related to uniform, please refer to the Parents & Carers > Uniform & Suppliers area of the academy website. For information related to expectations around uniform, please refer to the Parents & Carers > Parents & Carers Guide area of the website.

### **Weduc Parent/Carer App (Reach More Parents)**

Parents and carers should have already received an activation code via email to set up the parent/carers app. It is important that all our parents and carers where possible have access to Reach More Parents as this will be our main platform for communications, ordering uniform, cashless payments, and sharing Transition Updates prior to September.

If you have been unable to complete the process, please email [rwise@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:rwise@thelinkacademy.org.uk) for assistance. In the interim, we will also upload transition letters and information to the Why Choose Us? > Welcome to Year 7 area of the website.



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## Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit, then you may be entitled to apply for Free School Meals for your child. Even if your circumstances have only changed for the short term, you still have the right to apply.

The Free School Meals entitlement can be applied for where the parent's income satisfies any one of the following conditions at the time of applying:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you believe your child should be eligible for Free School Meals based on these criteria, you can apply now. We encourage applications to be made online via the academy website.

## Learner Data Collection –

We must ensure that we obtain the most up to date information for our learners. We ask that the Microsoft Forms on our website is completed for your child by a parent/carer and that it is completed by an individual who will also act as the child's emergency contact. This form is available under the Parents & Carers tab of the school website. Please scan the QR code at the bottom of this letter using your mobile device for your convenience and we ask that these forms are completed by **Friday 12 July 2024**.

- [The Link Academy – Parents & Carers - New Learner Data Collection–](#)

Should you have any queries or wish to provide any additional information regarding your child, please contact Mr Chater by emailing [rchater@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:rchater@thelinkacademy.org.uk). Transition information will be regularly published to the Why Choose Us > Welcome to Year 7 area of our website during July and we encourage you to check back regularly for the latest updates.

New Learner Data Collection Form  
- Parents & Carers - The Link  
Academy



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### Summer School

As mentioned in previous correspondence, The Link Academy is running a Summer School to further help your child get to know the academy. This year, our summer school will run from Monday 19 August to Friday 23 August 2024 and is available only for our new Year 7 learners. Consent forms were sent out previously. If you have misplaced your form or did not receive one, please get in contact. Summer School forms will also be available to complete during the Induction Evening on Thursday 4 July. More information will then be sent out to those parents and learners who have signed up.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to our academy in the near future.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Chater  
Assistant Principal

