



The Lowry Academy  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# Weekly Parent Communications



Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience





# Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. I'd like to begin this week with a few thank yous.

On Tuesday, a group of Year 7 parents attended a focus group meeting to give us feedback on transition and their child's experience of starting at The Lowry Academy. Thank you for your time and your valuable insights—your feedback was very positive, and we are keen to work on your suggestions. I'd like to remind parents that you can send me feedback anytime by emailing me directly at [claire.coy@lowryacademy.org.uk](mailto:claire.coy@lowryacademy.org.uk).

My second thanks goes to last year's Year 11 students, many of whom returned to school on Thursday evening to pick up their GCSE certificates and celebrate their success. It was lovely to catch up and hear about their college and employment journeys. We are very much hoping to establish an active alumni network to support and inspire our current students.

This week we've also had some recent sporting success in round 3 of the GM (County) Cup, where our Year 10 football team faced Chorlton High School for a place in the Quarter Finals!

Mr. Ashton wrote this inspiring post-match report:

"The game got off to a lively start with an excellent early strike from Aeron. However, we were pegged back shortly after by an equalizer. We finished the half strong, playing some great football in the middle of the park. About 10 minutes into the second half, I said to the eventual match-winner, 'This game is for you to win here,' and moments later, Lucas delivered with a thunderous strike into the top corner. Unfortunately, we were pegged back once again by another equalizer. The closing stages saw a chaotic bout of pinball in Chorlton's box, creating some last-minute nerves, but the full-time whistle blew, and it was on to penalties. Our captain stepped up brilliantly, saving 2 out of 3 penalties, while Chorlton missed their other attempt, hitting the crossbar. Meanwhile, all 3 of our players held their nerve and scored, with Lucas—our man of the match—slotting home the winning penalty. It's been two tough games against strong opposition, but the resilience and effort shown by the team have been exceptional. In the Quarter Finals, we'll be facing our 'noisy neighbours' and my previous school, Coop Academy Walkden, at home (and Mrs Coy has said that we must win this one!). A fantastic effort from everyone tonight, despite a couple of injuries and the challenge of facing a quality side. Well done, team!"

Finally, a reminder to our Year 10 parents about Parents' Evening this week on Thursday, 6th February, at 4pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. Your feedback is valuable to us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
Claire Coy





# Content List

Date: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

<b>School Information</b>	<b>Year Group relevant to</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<a href="#">Y10 Parents Evening</a>	Year 10	<u>4</u>
<a href="#">KS3 Academic Review Meetings</a>	Y7 – 9	<u>5</u>
<a href="#">Maths Excellence Fund</a>	All Families	<u>6 - 9</u>
<a href="#">GCSE Examination Information</a>	Year 11	<u>10</u>

<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>Year Group relevant to</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<a href="#">Dates for your Diary</a>	Years 7 – 11	<u>11</u>



## **Year 10 Parents Evening – Date for your Diary**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 10 Parents Evening is being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 between 4pm and 6pm.

Parents and carers, please encourage your child to accompany you to the event as this is an opportunity for your child to receive direct feedback from each class teacher about the progress so far since starting their GCSE courses, and recommended next steps to make further progress.

You will also receive a copy of your child's mid-year report at the event.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Yours faithfully,

Samantha Wells

**Assistant Principal – Assessment Data and Interventions**

[Back to contents page](#)

**Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience**





### **KS3 Academic Review Meetings**

Dear Parent / Carer,

The vast majority of our Key Stage 3 students and parents/carers will be meeting with their Academic Mentors during their allocated appointment time on either Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February or Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Appointment letters have been sent to all of our Key Stage 3 parents/carers via email.

Please check your inbox if you are not aware of your appointment time and date.

Yours faithfully,

Samantha Wells  
**Assistant Principal – Assessment Data and Interventions**

[Back to contents page](#)

**Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience**



## **Maths Excellence Fund**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to announce that we have launched a programme with the Maths Excellence Fund to offer engaging and enriching opportunities for our students in maths.

We are working with students to increase their enjoyment and engagement in Maths. We are supporting and encouraging students to consider further education and/or careers that use Maths to maximise their opportunities as adults.

Students in the top sets will progress through an enriched curriculum across KS3 which introduces them to Maths outside of the National Curriculum. There will also be activities such as trips, talks, competitions, and tutoring for some students.

The funding that is enabling this programme is for at least the next five years. We are funded by the Maths Excellence Fund which, on behalf of its donors, XTX Markets & the Hg Foundation, has supported four programmes nationally to improve student attainment and progression in maths, increasing the number of students who stay on the Maths excellence pathway between KS2 and KS5.

The programme will be independently evaluated by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to better understand which activities might improve student attainment and progress in maths, and to replicate best practice models.

Please read the information on the pages that follow, which also includes a form that you can complete if you do not wish your child's data to be shared, stored and used for this evaluation.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Hawes  
**Teacher of Maths**

[Back to contents page](#)

**Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience**



## **Maths Excellence Fund – Further Information**

The goal of this programme is to prepare more students aged 11 to 18 to do well in A-level maths and beyond. This initiative, called the United Excellence Programme, is funded by the Maths Excellence Fund (which is managed by Purposeful Ventures). It is being evaluated by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). The aim of the evaluation is to improve understanding of the activities that support student attainment and progress in maths. The findings from this evaluation will help inform the design and delivery of this programme, and other similar programmes, which will be beneficial for students in terms of their maths achievement and progression.

### **How does the maths programme work?**

The United Excellence Programme involves a range of maths-related activities, some of which may be available to your child. Activities could include, for example, maths lessons with a deepened curriculum, maths enrichment opportunities (e.g. maths clubs, maths awards and celebrations, speaker events), guidance about future transitions (e.g. activities to support post-16 choices and university visits). There will also be opportunities for parental involvement, including regular updates about their child's progress and access to support resources. Your child's school will let you know more about the opportunities available and when they will be taking place.

### **What are the evaluation activities for my child?**

The evaluation will include the following key activities:

- an online survey at the start, middle and end of the evaluation for certain classes/year groups to explore students' enjoyment of maths, their aspirations/choices, and their perceived progress; and to explore their views on programme activities if they have taken part. If your child's class is selected to complete this survey the evaluation will collect student characteristics (name, date-of-birth, Pupil Premium/post-16 bursary eligibility, year group, gender, if they have English as an additional language (EAL), if they have a special educational need or disability (SEND), their previous attainment) to be matched into the survey data.

The evaluation will also include the following if your child takes part in any programme activities:

the collection of monitoring data about your child so we can track their involvement in the programme and explore the impact of the programme for different groups of students. This data will be collected directly from the school. Data will include:

- student characteristics (name, date-of-birth, Pupil Premium/post-16 bursary eligibility, year group, gender, if they have English as an additional language (EAL), if they have a special educational need or disability (SEND), their previous attainment)



- participation in programme activities (for example, name/description of activity, length of activity, no. of sessions/hours, frequency, any satisfaction/feedback data collected by the programme team)
- maths course choice and attainment data (for example, where relevant, GCSE Mathematics predicted grade, actual GCSE Mathematics score, A-level Mathematics attainment).

### **Data protection and privacy**

Some basic data about your child will be collected from your child's school, as listed above. All data for each child will be kept strictly confidential and only used for delivering and evaluating the programme. All parties involved comply with GDPR requirements and have robust GDPR procedures in place.

Further information about this evaluation can be found on the project web page [here](#).

The web page includes links to a range of study privacy notices, including one for students. The student privacy notice summarises what personal data will be collected relating to your child, and how this data will be collected, used, shared and protected. **No student will be named in any report arising from this work.**

### **Can I withdraw my child from the evaluation?**

We really hope you agree to your child being included in this evaluation. The more data we include, the more robust the evaluation will be, which will enable us to maximise the benefits of maths programmes for students and support their progression. If you are happy for your child's data to be used for this research, **you do not need to do anything**. Although we value your child's participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings, if you would prefer their data not to be shared, stored and used for this research, you can withdraw your child at any time. To do so, please complete the form below and return it to your child's school/college. The school/college will then ensure that your child's data is not shared as part of the evaluation. Withdrawing from the evaluation will not impact your child's involvement in the maths programme, just their inclusion in the evaluation. If you withdraw your child from the evaluation, we will use any data we have collected up to that point unless you ask us to delete it.

### **Who can I contact for further information?**

If you have any queries about the United Excellence Programme, please contact [Amanda Whitehead](#) or [Alec Lindon](#).

If you have any queries about the evaluation, please contact us via email at: [MEF@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:MEF@nfer.ac.uk).





## Evaluation of the Maths Excellence Fund: United Excellence Programme

### Withdrawal form from data processing for parents

You only need to complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish your child’s data to be shared, stored and used for this evaluation.

I **DO NOT** give permission for data about my child that is collected as part of the delivery or evaluation to be stored or used for research purposes.

Your child’s name.....

Name of school.....

Your full name.....

Your signature..... Date.....



[Back to contents page](#)



## **GCSE Examinations – Summer 2025**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support for our Year 11 students as they work towards their final examinations. We are proud of the hard work and determination we are seeing from students. We very much appreciate your support at home at this important time.

Please be aware of the dates of the **Summer 2025** examinations window. It is most important that all students attend all of their examinations. No holidays or time away from school should be booked within the examination window.

Some Music, Drama, Art and Textiles final exams take place earlier than other examinations:

Drama Performance:	11 February
Music Performance:	25, 26 March
Art:	31 March, 1 & 2 April
Textiles:	24, 25 April

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Speaking examinations will start from 28 April. They run as individual appointments which will be organised by the MFL department.

Written examinations for all subjects begin on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and run until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

May half term break is Monday 26 – Friday 30 May. Whilst there are no examinations in this week there might be Revisions Sessions run within school.

Please be aware, for any exams that have been re-timetabled for any reason, there is an additional 'Exams Contingency Day' on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Individual timetables will be distributed at a later date.

If you have any queries about examinations, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Goodwin  
**Examinations and Assessments Officer**

[Back to contents page](#)

## Diary dates

Please make a note of the following dates, further information will be sent to families closer to specific events:

Date(s)	Relevant to	Event
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	Year 10	Parents Evening
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	Year 9	DTP/MenACWY immunisation catch ups
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	Years 7 – 9	Academic Review Meetings
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	All Families	Students finish for half-term
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 Half-Term Holiday</b>		
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	All Families	Students return to school for normal registration
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	Years 7 - 9	Academic Review Meetings
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>	All Families	World Book Day
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>	Year 11	Parents Evening

[Back to contents page](#)