

"An Academy to be Proud of"

Headteacher | Dr J. Hutchinson, PhD, NPQH
Lytham Road | Blackpool | Lancashire, FY4 1TL
t: 01253 207702 | e: admin@armfield.fcat.org.uk

20th July 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for the end of term on Thursday, the start of term arrangements in September and to be transparent in clarifying our expectations for the new academic year.

End of term arrangements

On Thursday 23rd July 2026, all students finish at 12pm. We are having a non-uniform day to raise money for our House charities. Students that wish to dress in non-uniform on Thursday morning will need to bring a £1 donation to be passed to their Form Tutor in their registration period. If your son/daughter chooses to wear their own clothes on the day, please ensure they dress appropriately for school (no tight-fitting shorts or tops that expose excess skin), as students have been asked to change using our school kit room in previous years. Their non-uniform can be their Armfield PE kit.

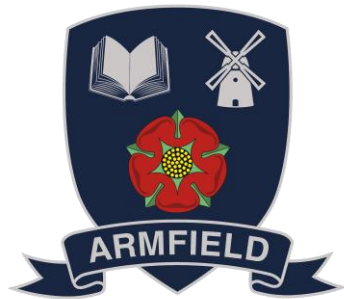
Start of term arrangements for September

The first day of the new academic year for all students is **Thursday 3rd September 2026**. This is a normal school day, starting promptly at 08:45am although the school gates will open as normal at 08:30am. One important change in terms of the school day in September is **where students will enter school** – which will now be via our **Lytham Road entrance at the north end of the front car park** (near our Phoenix building). This is where students normally leave school at the end of the day and so from September, they will both enter school and leave via the same gates. This is in light of our new SEN provision being built which will temporarily disable the normal entrance gate we use on Arnold Avenue.

As a reminder, the structure of the school day will change in September to accommodate six 50-minute lessons as follows:

Secondary School Lesson Structure		
8:45 am	Tutor	30 minutes
9:15 am	Period 1	50 minutes
10:05 am	Period 2	50 minutes
10:55 am	Break	20 minutes
11:15 am	Period 3	50 minutes
12:05 pm	Period 4	50 minutes
12:55 pm	Lunch	45 minutes
1:40 pm	Period 5	50 minutes
2:30 pm	Period 6	50 minutes
3:20 pm	Finish	





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Thank you to all members of the Armfield community

I would like to this opportunity to thank all staff, students, parents, carers and governors for their contribution to making this another successful year. I want to thank parents and carers specifically for your incredible support and celebrate the fantastic year we have shared. It has been a highly positive year across all phases of our school, filled with determination, growth, and community spirit.

Our students have excelled both inside and outside the classroom this year. Across all age groups, we have seen superb academic progress. Our students have worked hard, tackled challenges head-on, and achieved results they should be incredibly proud of. Beyond the classroom, our commitment to student enrichment and participation has been exceptional. From brilliant performances on the sports field, creative triumphs in the arts and school productions to successful national and international trips and charity fundraisers, our students have shown outstanding teamwork and enthusiasm throughout.

Student organisation

As we prepare to move into the new academic year, it is essential that all students are organised on their return to school in September. At Armfield, we pride ourselves on our pocket principles, in being respectful, responsible and ready to learn. Therefore, moving forward, every morning in tutor time, there will be an equipment check which links directly to students being ready to learn and to work hard in lessons. All students need to ensure they have the following:

- School bag, pencil case, black pen x 2, purple pen x 1, pencil, highlighter, ruler, mini-whiteboard pen, rubber & glue stick.
- Casio FX-83GTCW Scientific calculator, if you can afford it (students will need one up to Y11)

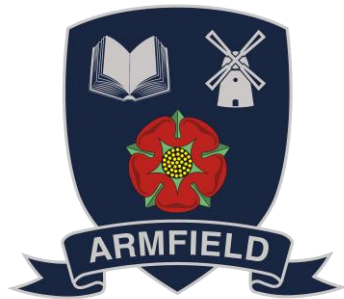
We will support students who do not have the correct equipment at the start of the year by providing it for them (this does not include a calculator). If they lose this equipment, or need to purchase replacements, we do offer this service at cost price through our stationary shop that will be available during specified times during the school week via Mr Renouf and our senior student team.

Uniform Standards/Reminders

I want to thank all students and parents/carers for their support and cooperation this term with regards to uniform standards and expectations. We want to start the new school year with the same high standards as wearing the correct uniform fosters pride, belonging, and a focused attitude toward learning.

Please ensure your child returns in September in the correct uniform. You can find our full uniform policy on our website if you need a quick reminder before buying any new items over the summer (<https://armfieldacademy.co.uk/information/uniform>).





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Key reminders are in relation to the three listed school logo items – school blazer, school skirt and school PE polo shirt. All black shoes are needed, jumpers are optional and trousers for boys and girls are formal, two-pocket, straight-leg, suit trousers (no leggings of any type will be accepted).

Mobile Phones (new laws from June 2026)

A reminder for September, students are prohibited from using or accessing mobile phones and similar smart communication devices (including smartwatches that receive notifications or text messages) at any point during the school day. All devices must be switched off and completely out of sight (stored securely in bags) otherwise confiscation will occur without debate. Consistent misuse of mobiles could lead to parents having to collect the phone themselves and a mobile phone ban at which point an exclusion from school may apply.

School Attendance & Punctuality

Excellent attendance is key to your child's success and well-being. We continue to strive for 100% attendance for every student. Being in school every day, on-time, ensures that students do not miss out on vital learning and social opportunities. We understand that students sometimes feel slightly unwell, but even in these situations, we ask that you do your best to send them to school. This will help students build the resilience they need to access the learning that will help them make the best progress. We appreciate your continued partnership in making school attendance a priority when we return.

A reminder that all holidays in term time will be unauthorised. Fixed penalty notices will be utilised for requests of 5-days or more, even if attendance is 100%. Across FCAT, we expect parents to utilise school closure times for holidays. Only in exceptional circumstances, holidays may be authorised by the Headteacher, but this can only be considered when parents complete the holiday request form in advance.

FSM Application

From September 2026, all households receiving Universal Credit (UC) will qualify for free school meals, regardless of their earnings. To make sure your child does not miss out, please use the official link to apply (this applies to all parents): <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/fcat>

Final Thanks

Thank you once again for your support and partnership this year. I apologise for the length of this letter, but it is best for everyone involved that our expectations are crystal clear before the start of the new academic year. I wish you all a safe, happy, and relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Warm regards,

Dr J Hutchinson – Acting Headteacher

