



FOXWOOD ACADEMY

Foxwood Academy Newsletter Autumn
Term 1 2025



Welcome Back!

We would like to warmly welcome you and your children back to school at the start of this new academic year. We hope you have all had a good summer break, and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead.

This year, we are delighted to welcome many new students into Key Stage 3, joining us from local mainstream primary schools as well as from our own primary phase here at Foxwood. Staff have been impressed with how well they have coped with the first few days back, adapting to new routines and learning environments, getting to know staff and their peers. Transition at the start of the academic year can be challenging for students, existing and new. Tutor teams will continue to support students and use strategies to support settling into the new term when needed.

We want to ensure you're well-informed and feel part of our school community.:

- **Key dates:** Please see the summer term dates below for important dates, including school events, and holidays. You can also find important dates and letters for events on the calendar on the school website. You can access this by clicking the link: <https://foxwood.academy/calendar>
- **Communication:** As always, we encourage open communication. There are many different ways we communicate with you. There is the daily planner, website <https://foxwood.academy/>, annual reviews, parents evenings, meet the tutor, letters and half termly swag. There is also Class Dojo if your child is in 3F and 3O. If you require further communication, please do contact the office and the appropriate member of staff will get back to you in a timely manner.
- **Well-being:** If you feel your child requires additional well-being support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Working closely together between home and school is a vital part of your child being successful at school. Any concerns you have, please don't hesitate to contact us so we can resolve any issues quickly.

Thank you for your partnership and support. We look forward to working together to make this autumn term a successful start to the academic year.

Safeguarding and Support



At Foxwood, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where pupils feel happy, respected, and supported. All staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection, and we work closely with families and outside agencies to ensure children are safe and protected from harm. If you ever have any concerns about your child's welfare or the safety of another pupil,

please do not hesitate to contact a member of our safeguarding team. Please follow the link to the school website to provide further information and support regarding safeguarding:

<https://foxwood.academy/key-information/safeguarding>

After School Clubs



We offer a variety of after-school clubs for KS3 students, providing a fantastic opportunity for them to build social connections, enjoy new activities, and grow their independence. Letters will be coming home shortly to sign up.

- **Monday:** Sports Club
- **Tuesday:** Computer Club (Pathway 2 and 3) or Sensory Circuits (Pathway 1)
- **Thursday:** Art Club or Film Club

We encourage all students to take part and make the most of these activities!

Key Dates



Please see a list of the key dates below for this half term. There will be more things happening as the term progresses and we will of course let you know about these events.

24.9.25 - Meet the Tutor - This event runs at 3:30pm and 4:15pm and you will have an opportunity to meet the class team and ask any questions you may have. Letters will be coming home next week.

6.10.25 - INSET day.

17.10.25 - Break up for half term

E-Safety



Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, both in and outside of school. By age 11, around 91% of children own a smartphone or tablet and go online daily, making it vital that they understand the risks of the digital world.

Children today are tech-savvy but highly vulnerable. Risks such as inappropriate content, scams, cyberbullying, and online grooming are constantly evolving. Social media can add extra pressure, and even the best parental controls aren't always foolproof. Balancing your child's safety and privacy online can feel overwhelming, especially as many of us didn't grow up with this level of technology.

While online platforms can be fun and social, they can also affect children's wellbeing, leading to anxiety, low self-esteem, or harmful online experiences. That's why it's so important for young people to develop safe, balanced habits online.

Through our **Preparing for Adulthood** curriculum, alongside **Computing**, **E-Safety**, and **PSD** lessons, we teach students how to navigate online spaces safely and responsibly.

To support you at home, the NSPCC offers excellent resources and advice to help start important conversations about online safety with your child. You can find them here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and

<https://foxwoodacademy->

[my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/jhutchinson_foxwood_notts_sch_uk/ERvT4AjP5npJrASUhk3J4psB0mPf87ulmegipvQwOhvhnw?e=d6t0dd](https://foxwoodacademy-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/jhutchinson_foxwood_notts_sch_uk/ERvT4AjP5npJrASUhk3J4psB0mPf87ulmegipvQwOhvhnw?e=d6t0dd)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/?paged=1>

Together, we can help our children stay safe, informed, and resilient as they explore the digital world.

'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'



Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their potential. The Department for Education is clear that every day in school matters – even a small amount of absence can have a significant impact on learning, progress, and long-term outcomes.

Regular attendance not only supports your child's academic progress, but also helps them to build friendships, develop social skills, and feel part of the school community. We all want

the very best for your child, and ensuring they are in school every day, on time, gives them the best possible chance to succeed.

Attendance at Foxwood continues to be excellent and above the national average. Thank you to you all for sharing the belief that attendance in school is vital. As parents and carers, you have a strong understanding that your child being at school is a priority alongside a legal requirement.

It is essential that children and young people get the most out of their school experience. We aim for students to be at school **95%** of the time. Attendance below 90% is classed by the Department for Education as *Persistent Absence* and is a serious concern. If your child's attendance falls to this level, we will work closely with you to understand any barriers affecting their attendance. Our aim is to provide the right support where needed, so that together we can help your child attend school regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Foxwood has systems in place to pick up attendance concerns quickly. Your child's tutor team monitor attendance closely and as soon as it drops below 97%, staff will identify ways to support where this is required. If attendance continues to decline, you will receive a letter to inform you of this. In certain cases, a support plan will be put in place to support the young person to get them back into school.

We do understand that there are times when children will be absent from school due to illness and other exceptional circumstances. If you are ever in any doubt whether to send them or not, please don't hesitate to get in touch for support. If your child has a medical appointment, please arrange this for later in the day, to avoid missing too much learning time. Hospital appointments might be more challenging to arrange and we do understand this. It is advisable to mention to the GP or hospital that your child's attendance in school is important and this may support getting a later appointment. If your child needs to miss school for a medical appointment, you must send the appointment letter to reception prior to the appointment so we have this for our records and to safeguard our young people.

Non-medical appointments must be made out of school hours.

Holidays in term time are not classed as exceptional circumstances and can lead to fines. There are 175 non-school days each year when children are not required to be in school. Please do minimise disruption to learning by taking holidays in the designated breaks.

If you have any concerns around your child's attendance and feel you need additional support, please do get in touch with the Attendance Lead nikki.glover@foxwood.notts.sch.uk. Any day-to-day enquiries about attendance, please do discuss this with your child's tutor team.

Thank you to you all for your continued support.

Absence from the Academy and Medical Appointment Letters



If your child is not able to attend school due to illness, please ensure that you contact the Academy on the first day of absence first thing in the morning. Each day your child is absent, a phone call to the Academy is required. If contact is not made first thing in the morning, you will receive a reminder text along with a follow up phone to ensure safeguarding.

If your child has a medical appointment that can't be arranged outside of the school day, a copy of the appointment letter must be sent through to the office prior to the day of the appointment. This is in line with the Department for Education's 'Working Together to Improve Attendance' statutory guidance and is to help us keep accurate attendance records, so please provide proof of medical appointments, such as a doctor's note or appointment confirmation, when your child is absent for a medical reason. This ensures the absence is properly recorded as excused.