



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, **Tel:** 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

2nd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful, restful summer break and have enjoyed some quality time together. As we prepare to open our doors for the new academic year, we are incredibly excited to welcome our students back to school.

I am delighted to inform you that the Class of 2026 delivered record outcomes in relation to their GCSEs. I would like to congratulate the students and staff on all of their hard work and dedication. A new school year brings a sense of fresh opportunity, and we are eager to see our students flourish both academically and personally over the coming months.

You may have seen recent reports in the national news regarding updated Department for Education (DfE) recommendations on mobile phones and school uniform policies. I would like to reassure you regarding our approach as we begin the new term:

- **Mobile Phones:** For the start of term, our existing policy remains in place. Mobile phones must be switched off and kept inside bags at all times while on school grounds. We will be evaluating the impact of our mobile phone policy in the coming weeks and will keep you updated.
- **Uniform and Equipment:** We maintain high standards regarding uniform and readiness to learn, and these expectations will be reiterated to all students on their return to school. You will recall that we have previously shared our uniform policy with you, but you will find it attached at the end of this letter for your convenience.

We are mindful that the return to school can present occasional logistical challenges. While our high standards remain firm, staff will exercise discretion and care on the rare occasions when students are temporarily missing an item. In these cases, we will allow families until Monday 7th September 2026 to address this where relevant. Should you require assistance with uniform or equipment, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Year Lead, as we are here to support you.

You may have noticed some new codes on your child's timetable, in particular references to 'X' and 'Y' bands in their class codes. We have divided Years 8 to 11 into two equal-ability halves: the 'X' and 'Y' bands. We have deliberately updated these labels from the previous 'A' and 'B' designators. Under the former system, some students and parents/carers were left with the false impression that the letters represented ability bands, leading a few students to feel that placement in the 'B' band implied lower ability. This was never the case. Changing the labels to 'X' and 'Y' ensures that the band names remain entirely neutral. Dividing the year group into two equal halves is purely an administrative measure to help us manage a balanced timetable. For example, while the 'X' band is studying Mathematics, the 'Y' band may be studying English.

To illustrate how this appears on a timetable, within Year 10 there are six Mathematics sets arranged across the two bands:

- **X Band:** 10:MAT:X1, 10:MAT:X2, 10:MAT:X3
- **Y Band:** 10:MAT:Y1, 10:MAT:Y2, 10:MAT:Y3

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, **Tel:** 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

Within Year 7, all subjects with the exception of Art and Technology will be taught in mixed-ability form groups for the first half-term while we get to know your children. Some subjects will then place students into ability-based groups following the October half-term. We will keep you updated with regard to any changes that we make.

Regular and punctual attendance is fundamental to the academic success, wellbeing, and personal development of every student. Missing school, even for a few days, can disrupt learning routines, create gaps in subject knowledge, and impact a child's confidence. We are committed to supporting every family in ensuring that students maintain excellent attendance throughout the academic year, as being present every day ensures that they do not miss out on vital educational and social opportunities. This was evident in the results of the Class of 2026, where students with higher levels of attendance achieved significantly better outcomes. We will continue placing a greater emphasis on attendance and working to encourage all our learners to attend school.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students tomorrow morning at 8:35 am, with form-related activities commencing at 8:40 am, and extending a special, warm welcome to our new Year 7 cohort as they begin their secondary school journey with us.

We are proud of our students and have a sense of optimism about what promises to be an inspiring and successful academic year.

We firmly believe that working in close partnership with our parents and carers always yields the best outcomes for our children, so please contact us regarding any issue, we are always here to help.

Best wishes,

Satinder Singh
Headteacher

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, **Tel:** 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk



Garstang Community Academy Uniform Policy



At Garstang Community Academy, we require all students to wear the correct uniform when travelling to and from the academy, whilst in the academy and when representing the academy. It helps to establish a clear identity which supports equality among students, and promotes a sense of pride and belonging within the community.

School Uniform

- GCA Branded Blazer
- White long or short sleeve standard school shirt
- GCA Tie (Y7-10) Red Tie for Y11
- Medium grey school style trousers or
- Medium grey pleated school skirt - tights must be worn with the skirt with minimum of 60 denier. *Skirts must be a reasonable length, falling just above the knee covering the thigh when standing or sitting.*
- Plain Black flat shoes (no trainers or logos)



Further information about uniform policy

- Minimal natural makeup (no false eyelashes are to be worn)
- No fake tan is to be worn
- Hair must be of a natural colour. Extreme hair styles are not permitted (no shaved hair / below a grade 1 or no patterns)
- No nail varnish, gel nails or false nails are to be worn
- No jewellery is permitted including no earrings which includes clear studs. It will be confiscated and parents will be asked to collect them.
- Only a wrist watch can be worn, this has to be taken off for exams.



PE Kit

- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Top
- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Shorts or unbranded Navy Leggings
- Plain Black/Blue socks
- Sports Trainers

Advised Extra's

- Branded Navy and Red 1/4 zip jumper
- Navy/Black sleeved skins
- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Football boots
- Navy Football socks

Uniform can be bought from The Uniform and Leisure Shop in Garstang and Lancaster or on <https://uonline.co.uk/> or Top One Uniforms in Preston 01772 828616



Garstang Community Academy Uniform Policy



Additional Information regarding Uniform Policy

- Uniform checks are conducted regularly by form tutors, year leaders and teaching staff.
- Non compliance to follow the uniform policy will result in a signature on standards cards, persistent breaches of this policy will result in further sanctions, communication home and meetings with parents/carers.
- Pupils will be awarded positive points for having correct uniform and equipment at the end of the week by form tutors.
- We ask for the support of parents and carers in ensuring that students arrive each day in full, correct uniform and prepared for learning.
- We ask that parents/carers contact school and update us regarding any issues with uniform for their child.
- If your child can't wear their school shoes, they will be asked to wear black school pumps. Trainers are not permitted. We advise you to contact school directly if there is any issues with school shoes.
- If a child chooses to wear jewellery, this will be confiscated and parents/carers will be asked to collect this from the school office.
- If your child can't take part in PE for a medical reason, they will need a note from home and are still expected to get changed into PE kit for the lesson.
- If your child forgets PE kit, they will be issued with a warning on the first occasion and then a lunch detention with the PE department after this. The PE department may issue after school detentions if a student continually does not bring PE kit. Parents/Carers will be contacted regarding this.
- If students have PE period 5, they may choose to go home in PE kit.

Standards Card

- All students are issued with a standards card on a half termly basis, they are to keep this with them at all times. This card monitors standards of uniform and equipment.
- Signatures are given for infringements of the uniform policy, lack of equipment and jewellery.
- 3 signatures on their standards card will result in a 45 minute detention for standards infringements.
- If a student misplaces a standard card, an hour detention will be issued and logged on class charts, the student will be issued with a replacement standards card.

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, Tel: 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk



Garstang Community Academy Uniform Policy 2026



At Garstang Community Academy, we require all students to wear the correct uniform when travelling to and from the academy, whilst in the academy and when representing the academy. It helps to establish a clear identity which supports equality among students, and promotes a sense of pride and belonging within the community.

Year 8 - School Uniform

- GCA Branded Blazer
- White long or short sleeve standard school shirt
- GCA Tie (Y7-10)
- Medium grey school style trousers or
- GCA Tartan pleated school skirt - tights must be worn with the skirt with minimum of 60 denier. *Skirts must be a reasonable length, falling just above the knee covering the thigh when standing or sitting.*
- Plain Black flat shoes (no trainers or logos)



Further information about uniform policy

- Minimal natural makeup (no false eyelashes are to be worn)
- No fake tan is to be worn
- Hair must be of a natural colour. Extreme hair styles are not permitted (no shaved hair / below a grade 1 or no patterns)
- No nail varnish, gel nails or false nails are to be worn
- No jewellery is permitted including no earrings which includes clear studs. It will be confiscated and parents will be asked to collect them.
- Only a wrist watch can be worn.

PE Kit

- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Polo
- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Shorts or unbranded Navy Leggings
- Plain Black/Blue socks
- Trainers

Advised Extra's

- Branded Navy and Red 1/4 zip jumper
- Navy/Black sleeved skins
- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Football boots
- Navy Football socks

Uniform can be bought from The Uniform and Leisure Shop in Garstang and Lancaster on <https://ualonline.co.uk/> or Topone Uniforms in Pretson.



Garstang Community Academy Uniform Policy 2026



At Garstang Community Academy, we require all students to wear the correct uniform when travelling to and from the academy, whilst in the academy and when representing the academy. It helps to establish a clear identity which supports equality among students, and promotes a sense of pride and belonging within the community.

Year 11 - School Uniform

- GCA Branded Blazer
- White long or short sleeve standard school shirt
- GCA Red Tie for Y11
- Medium grey school style trousers or
- GCA Tartan pleated school skirt - tights must be worn with the skirt with minimum of 60 denier. *Skirts must be a reasonable length, falling just above the knee covering the thigh when standing or sitting.*
- Plain Black flat shoes (no trainers or logos)



Further information about uniform policy

- Minimal natural makeup (no false eyelashes are to be worn)
- No fake tan is to be worn
- Hair must be of a natural colour. Extreme hair styles are not permitted (no shaved hair / below a grade 1 or no patterns)
- No nail varnish, gel nails or false nails are to be worn
- No jewellery is permitted including no earrings which includes clear studs. It will be confiscated and parents will be asked to collect them.
- Only a wrist watch can be worn.

PE Kit

- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Polo
- GCA Navy and Red Branded PE Shorts or unbranded Navy Leggings
- Plain Black/Blue socks
- Trainers

Advised Extra's

- Branded Navy and Red 1/4 zip jumper
- Navy/Black sleeved skins
- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Football boots
- Navy Football socks

Uniform can be bought from The Uniform and Leisure Shop in Garstang and Lancaster on <https://ualonline.co.uk/> or Topone Uniforms in Pretson.

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR