



Ref: JHM/NM

03 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back to Waltham Toll Bar Academy

I am delighted to welcome you and your children back to Waltham Toll Bar Academy for the start of a new academic year.

For me, this September is particularly special as I finally take up my post as Principal of Waltham Toll Bar Academy. It is an enormous privilege to lead an academy that is very close to my heart, having previously worked here on two separate occasions.

I have many fond memories of my time at Waltham Toll Bar Academy. Toll Bar has always been an ambitious school and, quite simply, the very best educational establishment in the area. It is a place where young people were encouraged to aim high, where staff went above and beyond for their students, and where the academy was an important and respected part of the local community.

It is therefore incredibly exciting to return as Principal and to have the opportunity to work alongside our students, staff, parents, carers and wider community as we write the next chapter in the academy's story. I am not here simply for the short term; I am looking forward to becoming part of this community again and working with you for many years to come.

Outstanding GCSE Results

We begin the new academic year with a great deal to celebrate following the outstanding GCSE results achieved by our students this summer. These results are testament to the hard work, determination and resilience of our young people, as well as the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support provided by parents and carers.

Numbers achieving a strong grade 5 pass or higher in both English and Maths rose to more than 50%, a 4.6% year-on-year increase.

More than 70% achieved a standard pass (grade 4 or above) in their core subjects. English saw the numbers of students reaching a grade 5 or above increase to 66% and Maths went up by 4% to 57%.



Proud to be part of the

Lincolnshire Gateway
Academies Trust

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Principal: Joe Hermiston



Chemistry and Physics students had some amazing outcomes, with all achieving a grade 5 or above. Other subjects performing well included History, with 40% achieving a grade 7 or above, and Languages, with 90% reaching a grade 5+ in Spanish and 85% doing so in French.

I would like to congratulate every student who collected their results this summer. Behind every grade is an individual story of effort, aspiration and perseverance, and we are extremely proud of what our students have achieved.

A Growing Academy

Another reason for real optimism is the increasing number of Year 7 students choosing to join Waltham Toll Bar Academy this year.

This growth is a clear indication that the academy's reputation within our local community is continuing to strengthen and that increasing numbers of families see Waltham Toll Bar Academy as their school of choice.

That is something we should all be proud of, but we must never take it for granted. Our responsibility is to ensure that every family who places their trust in us sees their child receive an excellent education and the opportunities they need to succeed. Following this summer's exceptional examination results, I am confident that the academy's reputation will continue to grow.

Our Focus for the Year Ahead

My focus as Principal will always be on ensuring that every student at Waltham Toll Bar Academy receives the highest possible standard of education.

We will continue to drive improvements in the quality of teaching and learning, ensuring that lessons are ambitious, engaging and enable every student to make excellent progress. Alongside this, we will maintain the highest expectations for behaviour, attendance, attitudes and standards. Our students deserve to learn in calm, purposeful classrooms where they feel safe, supported and able to achieve their very best.

However, a great education is about far more than examination results alone.

One of the things I am particularly excited about is building upon the academy's already amazing enrichment programme. The experiences students have beyond the classroom can shape their confidence, aspirations and view of the world. Last year, students enjoyed fantastic opportunities, including trips and visits to Rome, Barcelona and France, alongside a wide range of clubs, activities and other enrichment experiences, including this year's outstanding Peter Pan production and over 100 sporting fixtures.

I want us to be even more ambitious in this area. Every student should have opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents, experience new places and create memories that stay with them long after they leave Waltham Toll Bar Academy.



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Working Together

Finally, I want to emphasise how much I am looking forward to working with you as parents and carers, and with our wider local community.

I am also extremely pleased to be continuing to work alongside our Executive Principal, Philip Dickinson. Phil has already put an enormous amount of hard work, commitment and energy into moving Waltham Toll Bar Academy forward, and I am excited to build upon the progress that has already been made. I know that by working closely together, alongside our staff and wider academy community, we can continue to raise standards and ensure Waltham Toll Bar goes from strength to strength.

I firmly believe that young people have the best opportunities in life when their academy and their families work together. Strong relationships between home and school allow us to celebrate success together, address challenges quickly and, most importantly, ensure that every decision we make keeps the interests of our young people at its heart.

Over the coming months and years, I want Waltham Toll Bar Academy to be an academy that communicates openly with families, listens to its community and makes parents and carers feel genuinely part of what we are trying to achieve.

There is already so much to be proud of at Waltham Toll Bar Academy, and there is also so much to look forward to. I could not be more excited to finally begin my role as Principal and to work alongside our students, staff, parents, carers and community in the years ahead.

I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable summer, and I look forward to welcoming our students back for what I am confident will be an exciting and successful year at Waltham Toll Bar Academy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. Hermiston
Principal



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