



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

RMCG/KRE

17th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term Arrangements

As we approach the end of this academic year, I just want to thank you for your support. There has been much to celebrate this year as you will see from the collection of photographs and stories detailed in the newsletter. In September the academy will continue to be completely full in all year groups, and we are very proud to be the school of choice in our local area.

Staffing: We say goodbye this week to two members of staff, one who is retiring, and another who began their teaching career with us is moving back closer to home. I'd like to thank Miss Sunman from the RE Department, and Miss Hampton from the Science Department for their contribution to Morton Academy.

Uniform: Thank you for your support with improving the overall quality of the uniform at the academy. We would like to remind you of the following for the students return in September:

- **Footwear** – Footwear must be entirely black, leather and must be polishable – there must be no aspect of the footwear which is anything other than black, including the tongue, branding, laces and the sole. Footwear must not be the likes of Converse, On, Nike Air Max, Nike Air Force, Hi Tops, Crocs, Vans or anything of a comparable nature.
- **Skirts/Trousers** – We now have a preferred skirt and trouser style which are available from our uniform supplier. This skirt will be the only style acceptable in school. Short, tight fitting jersey style skirts are not appropriate for school wear and will need to be replaced. Additionally, we have seen students arrive to school in jeans, leggings and tracksuit bottoms recently – this needs to be rectified also.
- **Jewellery** – All jewellery is now banned and will be confiscated for parents to collect.
- **Blazers/Ties** – Both blazers and ties must be worn at all times by all students.

Mobile Phones: There has been a small increase in the amount of mobile phones we are seeing being used in school. I would ask that all parents remind their children that if they want to contact you during the day the best way of doing this is through the academy who will be able to contact you on their behalf. We are more than happy to do this. As you will know, if we see children using phones in school we will confiscate until the end of the day where parents will have to collect from the school. I do not want to inconvenience anyone so I would appreciate your support in reminding your child not to have phones out in school.

/cont'd

Richard Rose Morton Academy, Wigton Road, Carlisle CA2 6LB

☎ 01228 822644 • ✉ info@rrma.org.uk • www.rrma.org.uk



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Equipment: To ensure every student is fully equipped for their learning during 2024/25, and in an effort to support families, we are pleased to announce the launch of the '**Equipment Bundle**'. This will be available to purchase on ParentPay as of Wednesday 17th July 2024 for only £2. Whenever a '**Equipment Bundle**' is purchased and the payment has been received, your child will be furnished with the following (upon their return in September if you opt to purchase this within the coming days):

- x1 Plastic Pencil Case; x2 Black Pens; x1 Green Pen; x1 Pencil; x1 Ruler; x1 Rubber; x1 Pencil Sharpener; x1 Whiteboard Marker; x1 Glue Stick.

Following a slight rise in students not having the basic equipment to access their learning, this has become a focus for 2024-2025 in which we are striving to ensure all students are fully equipped for their learning each and every day. The benefits of this will be that it will lead to less time being lost within the learning environment addressing this particular issue, an improved engagement with learning through being properly equipped and less reliance on needing to address this through sanctioning.

Safeguarding: We appreciate that times can be difficult during the holidays and when school is closed it is not always clear where to get support. The safeguarding of our students remains our highest priority, even during closure, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the pathways of reporting that are available to students and parents at this time. We have ensured that there are a number of links and support signposted on our website that you can follow to gain advice from external agencies such as NSPCC, Kooth and Mind for issues around mental health, anxiety or for free and confidential advice and guidance from trained counsellors during the holiday period. You can also contact the academy via email using the safeguarding@rrma.org.uk or complete the anonymised form on our website ([Anonymous Reporting](#)) if you would like support for your child or family on the return to school. This email will be checked sporadically and actioned upon return to school by the relevant staff. However, if you require immediate support or advice or are concerned that a child may be at risk of harm please contact the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub 0333 240 1727 or the Police.

The academic year ends on Friday 19th July at 12.45pm. Students with free school meals will be able to get a grab bag lunch on this day and it is a non uniform day. The academy reopens to students at 8.35am on Wednesday 4th September 2024. I hope everyone has a restful summer break and above all stays safe and well.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Richard McGuire
Principal