

Wednesday, 15th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 End of Year Letter

As we come to the end of your child's first year at Grace Academy, I wanted to take the opportunity to say how incredibly proud I am of everything they have achieved. It has been an absolute pleasure to be their Head of Year, and I have loved watching them grow in confidence, resilience, and character.

Their first year seems to have flown by: it feels but a few months since they arrived at Grace with nervous faces on Transition Day last July, and then in September with students walking around with their noses in their planners, trying to navigate themselves to their next lesson! All students have settled in to Grace so well, and it's been fantastic to see so many students becoming a part of the wider school community by joining extra-curricular clubs and supporting both their peers and teachers around the Academy.

Students have spent a large amount of time learning about our five Grace Values this year, and it's been lovely to see them demonstrating them both inside and outside of lessons. In particular, the Mutual Respect they have shown both their peers and teachers has been exceptional, as has been their Intentional Excellence, arriving at school ready to learn every day. I couldn't have asked any more of them than this.

From their fantastic dedication to sporting events and brilliant performances in The Lion King, to their competitive spirit with attendance and, above all, the kindness and respect they show each other every day, they have truly made this year one to remember.

Next year, our school focus is on strengthening our sense of belonging, especially in form times, and I am looking forward to them taking on more leadership opportunities as well as taking part in more extra-curricular opportunities. I am so excited to continue this journey with them and can't wait to see what they will accomplish as they move into Year 8, and to celebrate this with them and share this positive news with you too.

I thought I would also take this opportunity to share some key reminders with you as the school year draws to an end.

Uniform and Equipment

When purchasing uniform for September, please re-familiarise yourselves with the Uniform Policy:



Principal:
Mrs E Wheller

Grace Academy is part of Tove Learning Trust, a multi-academy trust whose Company Registration Number is 07525820

Registered Office Address: c/o Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DJ



Do wear ✓	No thank you ✗
Black Grace Academy Blazer, with appropriate coloured year group flash (provided in September).	Polo-shirts or fashion blouses
Plain white cotton shirt with a top button which should be fastened at all times.	Jumpers/hoodies of any style or colour
Purple Grace Academy tie with GA logo on display below the knot.	
Tailored black, full-length trousers in a cotton and/or polyester material, with a zip or button fastening, which hang below the ankle. Or Plain, black pleated, knee-length skirt.	Trousers made of other materials such as a jersey material, nylon, or denim. Trousers with additional decoration such as piping. Trousers which are flared, wide fit, or skinny fit, or of a yoga pant/legging style.
Plain black socks, fully covering the foot and ankle to be worn with trousers. Plain black tights to be worn with skirts.	Ankle socks or socks with patterns. Socks worn with tights. Patterned or sheer tights.
Black leather or leather-look shoes.	Trainers, pumps, crocs, canvas shoes, boots, sports brands, stilettos
The Grace 5 1. School bag 2. Pencil case 3. Reading book 4. Water bottle 5. Planner (provided on the first day of term, or £7 to replace)	
<u>Additional Items</u>	
Acceptable ✓	No thank you ✗
• Plain hair band (white or black only) • Hair colouring of a natural, single colour • One small plain, gold or silver single stud allowed in each ear • Clear pimple patches • A mechanical or digital watch	• No hair accessories, including bows and clips • No hair colours other than natural, single colours, extreme hair styles, spikes, patterns or shaved areas. • No shaved eyebrows • No rings, bracelets, necklaces. • No additional piercings anywhere else on the face or body. • No excessive make-up, nail varnish or acrylic nails

Do wear 	No thank you 
	• No coloured pimple patches • No chewing gum • No fizzy drinks or energy drinks • No mobile phones unless locked away at the start of the day • No other personal devices, such as electronic games, earphones/headphones, musical devices, or recording equipment • No smart watches

Attendance and key dates

Our school attendance target for all students is a minimum of 97% (i.e. no more than 6 days of absence during the school year). Please ensure that medical/dentist appointments are booked outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, we would anticipate appointments being made so that students are able to attain full attendance for the day (by gaining their AM and PM registration mark) by attending and returning to school before/after their appointment.

Term time holiday absences will not be authorised. Please make a note of the term dates for the next academic year:

Autumn Term 2026

First day of term: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 (Years 7 and 12)

First day of term: Thursday 3rd September 2026 (Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13)

Half term holiday: Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October 2026

Last day of term: Friday 18th December 2026

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027

Spring Term 2027

First day of term: Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half term holiday: Monday 15th February- Friday 19th February

Last day of term: Thursday 25th March

Easter holiday: Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April

Summer Term 2027

First day of term: Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half term holiday: Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June

Last day of term: Wednesday 21st July

Inset Days, Disaggregated Days and Bank Holidays (school closed to students)

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 4th December 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027

Monday 28th June 2027

Meet the Tutor Event

Following feedback from the Parent Survey, we would like to extend an invitation to our Meet the Tutor event on Thursday 3rd September to enable the parents of students in all year groups to meet with form tutors at the start of the academic year in order that any questions or concerns can be addressed as quickly as possible. The event will run similarly to Parents' Evenings, but with some key differences:

- there is no need to book
- tutors will be based in form rooms
- tutors will be able to use your child's attendance, behaviour and progress data to discuss successes and targets for the new year.

Date: Thursday 3rd September

Time: 3:15pm-4:15pm, with refreshments available upon arrival

If you are unable to attend the event, please complete the [Google Form](#) and your child's form tutor will call you within the first half term.

New timings of the school day

Following our consultation, from September the timings of the school day have changed and also include more supervised "wrap-around care" to support parents. From 8am we will be running a free breakfast club for students in every year group every morning, where they are able to have a free breakfast, if they wish, sit and do homework or socialise with their peers, as well as the opportunity to attend homework club after school until 4pm. We also run a range of extra-curricular clubs after school and more details of these will follow in September.

Please see the timings below:

8:00-8:40	Family Breakfast and Homework support (optional)
8:40-8:45	Arrive for line ups
8:45-9:00	Line ups and AM form time
9:00-10:00	P1
10:00-11:00	P2
11:00-11:20	Break Time
11:20-12.20	P3
12:20-13.20	P4
13.20-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:55	P5
14:55-15:15	PM form time

15:15-16:00	Homework club (optional)
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I would like to thank you for all of your support this academic year and wish you all a restful summer break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Ridley', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mrs Eleanor Ridley
Head of Year 7