

Wednesday, 15th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 End of Year Letter

As we approach the end of another academic year, I want to express my thanks to you and the students of Year 9 for welcoming me into my new role as Head of Year. The students handled the change with grace and I have thoroughly enjoyed being there to celebrate the moments where students have excelled throughout this academic year.

I want to firstly commend how well and maturely the students handled the options process earlier this year. Their engagement and inquisitiveness during both the assembly and Parents Evening, paired with their eagerness to hand their forms in and find out their confirmed options showed just how committed they are to the beginning of their GCSE journeys.

Another highlight of this academic year was being able to stand on the bench at line-ups on our annual Cultural Diversity Day and look out at the year group and appreciate just how many cultures we are able to celebrate at Grace. There were sequins, flags, a plethora of colours and lots of smiles on students' faces.

I also had the pleasure of watching my first school show when the Performing Arts department put on their performance of *Heathers: The Musical*. Some of our drama enthusiasts were a part of this and may I say what a performance it was! From ensemble to main roles, there was not one Year 9 student involved who wasn't giving their all.

Most recently, it has brought me joy to walk down the corridor during inter-form quiz mornings. The students' competitive side really comes out; they are out of their seats shouting the answers out, tutors can hardly keep up! It really is wonderful to see the sense of unity to get their hands on a prize. 9DAL have won a prize on both quizzes so far, they're definitely the ones to watch out for!

In addition to all mentioned above, there has been many a moment that has made me both proud and honoured to stand in front of such aspiring individuals each morning. From students celebrating their latest academic achievement, to hearing about inspiring moments outside of school and in the community, to embedding the Grace values day in day out, Year 9 really are proving that they are ready for the next big step in their secondary school journey.



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



I thought I would 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:

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	• No hair accessories, including bows and clips • No hair colours other than natural, single colours, extreme hair styles, spikes, patterns or shaved areas.

Do wear ✓	No thank you ✗
• A mechanical or digital watch	• 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 • 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 that appointments would be 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

Last day of term: Friday 18th December

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 our Meet the Tutor event to enable the parents of students in all Year groups to meet with form tutors at the start of the academic year, so 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 give you a call 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)

I would like to thank you for all of your support this academic year and wish you all a restful summer break.

Kind regards,



Miss Lucy Roberts
Head of Year 9