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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

14 November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

Respect and Remembrance

I begin by echoing Mr Graham's 'moment of the week,' and thanking Year 7 pupils for the perfectly observed silence during Tuesday's Remembrance Day commemorations. Having pupil input and leadership with the music and the service made for a very special and proud moment for our school community. Special thanks also to our history lead and 7A form tutor Miss Kirk who spoke movingly in today's assembly about why respectful remembrance is so important in helping us to understand the past and build a peaceful future.

Bookswap

We are a reading school. We believe in the power of stories not only to boost pupils' learning levels (although the learning gains for regular readers are huge) but also to enrich childhood - supporting pupils' imagination, empathy and sense of wonder. Whenever weather allows, we have a wide and rich stock of fantastic fiction for pupils to browse and borrow for free from the Head Yard. This is in addition to our library stock. Pupils can simply sign a book out for as long as they like - we ask that they read it, rate it, return it, or - if they absolutely love the book, they can keep it or pass it on to a friend or family member. Our staff work hard to keep the stock replenished and we welcome donations too. Please do all you can to support a healthy reading habit with your child - it makes such a huge difference.

Uniform Expectations

Sincere thanks - after a reminder last week the very few minor uniform discrepancies we have seen in Year 7 are now being sorted as quickly as possible, and in most cases have now been resolved. A reminder that jewellery beyond a plain stud earring (no more than one in each ear) is not allowed and will be confiscated on sight. We were concerned that a small number of pupils were putting additional jewellery on on their way to school - but again after a reminder and a small number of confiscations this concern is mostly resolved. As the Principal always says - the combination of home, school and pupil working together makes a difference, so thank you for your support.

Little things, big difference

We are so proud of the manners, manner and conduct of our Year 7 pupils. We continually remind them that they should act at all times with courtesy, kindness and consideration for others and we feel sure that they also receive these messages from home. They really are a joy to spend time with during breaktimes, lunchtimes and when the year team visit them in their lessons. I shared last week some wonderful praise that we received into the Academy from a member of the public following a recent theatre trip. In a few weeks' time we will be taking more than 100 Y7 pupils to the Crucible Theatre - I really hope we will attract such praise again.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

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