

18 July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Thank You – from Mr Barlow

As we reach the end of another successful academic year at South Axholme Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to our school community. The letter contains important information in readiness for next academic year and September 2025.

As I reflect on my 21 years at South Axholme Academy, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. It has been an honour to serve this incredible school community, and I want to extend my deepest thanks to our parents, carers, students, governors, trustees and staff for your unwavering support throughout my time here. South Axholme Academy is a truly special place. Together, we have built one of the highest performing secondary schools in Yorkshire and the Humber. Our consistently outstanding attendance - currently the highest in the Local Education Authority - and our long-standing oversubscription are powerful testaments to the strength of our partnership. This success is not achieved in isolation; it is the result of a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, engaged students, supportive families, and a vibrant local community. The memories I take with me are countless and cherished. From classroom triumphs, school trips, to whole-school celebrations, every moment has reinforced what makes South Axholme Academy exceptional. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together and the legacy we continue to build.

This year marks a particularly significant moment for me personally, as I prepare to take up my new and exciting role as CEO and Headteacher of a Trust in Lincolnshire and leave my role as Principal at South Axholme Academy. After years of service to South Axholme Academy - as a teacher, governor, leader, and most recently Principal - it has been an honour to be part of so many students and families' lives. I leave a passionate and skilled staff body who I would like to thank personally for their hard work and dedication over the years. The students are blessed to have such amazing staff.

As I pass the baton to Mrs Hamilton, our new Principal, I do so with full confidence in her leadership and vision. I am certain she will continue to uphold and build upon the academy's strong foundations and lasting impact on young people's lives.

Thank you once again for your support over the years. It has been a privilege to serve this wonderful community. I wish you all the very best for the future.

Newsletter

It has been another amazing year at South Axholme Academy, and I hope you have an opportunity to read our latest newsletter, which highlights some of the brilliant achievements and experiences throughout the last term (*available via the link at the bottom of this letter*).

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Returning to School in September 2025

As we prepare for the new academic year, I wanted to provide you with some important information regarding the traditional staggered return to the academy during the week beginning Monday 1 September 2025. The staggered return schedule for students will be as follows:

Monday 1 September: Teacher Training Day (no students in school).

Tuesday 2 September: Years 7 and 11 students only return to the academy.

Wednesday 3 September: All Year groups return to the academy.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back and to another successful academic year.

GCSE Results Day

Our Year 11 leavers can collect their GCSE results between **9.00am - 11.00am on Thursday 21 August 2025**.

Uniform

Again, thank you for your continued efforts in making sure our students have had the correct uniform, especially during a time when families may be experiencing additional financial pressures due to the increase in the cost of living. Your collective efforts are very much appreciated. We have several pre-loved items of uniform available free for families. Please contact the academy for further details should you require any additional support.

Uniform is particularly important to us, as it helps to establish the right attitude to learning and behaviour, which we pride ourselves on here at South Axholme Academy. Students learn about appropriate dress code, preparing them for the world of work. It also helps them to understand how, when wearing a uniform, they become a representative of the logo they are displaying. Finally, there is also a safeguarding element with staff able to identify our students when entering or leaving the academy.

A reminder of our uniform policy can be found by using this link: [Uniform Policy](#).

Please ensure your child fully complies with the academy uniform policy. Please pay particular attention **to school shoes, trouser style and socks must be black or white and not trainer socks**.

May I also highlight false nails, false eyelashes and piercings must be removed prior to returning in September. Students should plan for piercings in the first week of the holiday to allow them to be removed on return. We have spoken to all students this week about uniform and the expectations.

Some uniform worn by students currently does not meet the requirements, and we have explained that on purchasing new uniform this needs to adhere to the policy, or students change into existing clothing that meets the uniform policy. We thank you in advance for your support.

Students who arrive in September without the correct uniform will be supervised until parents can collect and / or change the uniform in line with policy.

Staff Updates

As always at this time of the academic year, we say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on to the next chapter of their careers or lives. I would like to thank them all for their services and wish them well in the future. Please find below details of our new staff, who will join us in September.

We wish our departing staff well for the future as they leave us for new ventures – Mr Atkins, Mrs Barker-White, Mrs Bibby, Miss Bowyer, Mrs Bullars, Mrs Clarke, Miss Guthrie, Ms Milne, Mr Nadin, Mrs Holt and Mr Wilson.

Welcome to our new teaching staff from September: -

Mr Whitehead, Science Teacher
Mr Catherine, Computing Teacher
Mrs Lindsey, English Teacher
Mrs Dumitrache, Spanish Teacher
Ms Watson, English Teacher
Mrs Phillips, Teacher of Technology
Mrs Reardon - Brown, Teacher of Science
Miss Brennan, Progress and Achievement Leader

SLT

Congratulations to Mr Barnes and Miss Jacklin who have been promoted to the roles of Vice Principal and to Mrs Kerrigher and Mr Forster to Assistant Principal for 2025 - 2026.

Summary below of Progress and Achievement Leaders for 2025 - 2026

Welcome Miss Brennan to the academy, who will be the Progress and Achievement Leader for Year 8.

Progress and Achievement Leader Year 7 – Mrs Lee
Progress and Achievement Leader Year 8 – Miss Brennan
Progress and Achievement Leader Year 9 – Mrs Haigh
Progress and Achievement Leader Year 10 – Mrs Hall
Progress and Achievement Leader Year 11 – Mr Chancellor (Assistant Principal)

There will be some changes to Form Tutors with new staff arriving or changes to the academy staffing structure and these will be shared in September. Student form bases will be shared prior to the September start, so all students know where to need to go on their first day back in September.

A reminder about Penalty Notices for School Attendance

A reminder to parents and carers regarding holidays in term time. The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. It is for a Headteacher / Principal to consider any requests for exceptional leave of absence, prior to the absence being taken. Should this be declined, the school will consider a referral to Education Inclusion for consideration of either a penalty notice or prosecution process.

A Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised leave of absence, or general school unauthorised absence the amount will be: **£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days**

Keeping Children Safe During the Summer

All students have received during the final week, a special assembly celebrating their achievements this term as well as strategies to support them during the summer. Information for students in keeping safe over the summer can be found on their individual Year Group Team.

For any safeguarding concerns outside of school hours, and where you have any safeguarding concerns, please refer to North Lincolnshire Council's website and their Keeping Children Safe page.

<https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/people-health-and-care/keeping-children-safe-in-north-lincolnshire/>

Academy Hours – School Re-opening

Please note the academy is closed from 18 July and re-opens on Monday 1 September 2025. Please be mindful that should you need to contact the academy during the holidays, it may not be possible to respond to emails sent to admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk immediately, as they are not monitored daily throughout the holidays.

We do, however, have skeleton staff in during the week commencing 18 - 22 August 2025. We will respond to any urgent queries during this period.

Finally, I wish all our students and staff a very restful and safe summer. Good luck for the future – South Axholme Academy is an amazing place!

Please see the summer newsletter here [Click Here for the Link to the Summer 2025 Newsletter](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Barlow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Barlow
Principal