



# NEWSLETTER

What's inside...

**PRINCIPAL'S  
WELCOME**

**PUNCTUALITY  
TO SCHOOL**

**PROPOSED CHANGES  
TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

**WORLD BOOK  
DAY 2023**

**YEAR 7  
WELCOME**

**HOMEWORK &  
REVISION**

**SPORTS  
UPDATE**

**MINDFUL  
MARCH 2023**

## DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Please can I encourage you to read this edition of the newsletter carefully as it provides information on our plans to further improve punctuality to lesson and also proposed changes to the school day. I am confident both these changes will further improve the culture and ethos in school and ensure this school continues to improve for the good of this community and the families we serve.

I am sure you see all the negative media reports regarding schools at this moment and the pressures of staff recruitment, staff retention, funding and behaviour of students. I am very proud of how we continue to navigate our way through these tough times and we are improving the school in terms of behaviour, teaching, learning and our commitment to your child(ren). We cannot make any of these changes without parental support and I would urge you to continue to support us in our vision of 'We Seek The Best.' This means the best attendance, the best presented students, the best behaviour and the best examination results. You cannot achieve any of these without robust systems and policies that are acted upon by staff. We are making a positive difference to the school despite all the local and national challenges and I won't make any apologies for having the highest expectations for our students.

The 'small' things like uniform, equipment, a school bag etc. make the 'biggest' difference to a school and each student. Therefore, I am asking for your support again, to ensure that following the Easter break every student has perfect uniform (no jewellery), they arrive on time and are fully equipped with their school bag and stationery.

Finally, you will see the success of our **World Book Day** and also the continuing success of our **Year 9** football team. I wish them all the very best for their semi-final clash this week. Good luck!

Best wishes,

Mr I Critchley,  
Principal



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### KEY DATES 2023

<i>Monday 27th March</i>	<i>Honours Week (Years 7-11)</i>
<i>Friday 31st March (2:45pm)</i>	<i>School ends for Easter Break, all year groups</i>
<i>Monday 17th April (8.35am)</i>	<i>School begins for Summer Term, all year groups</i>

# PUNCTUALITY TO SCHOOL



HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY



16 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## Punctuality to School

I am writing to update you on the significant improvement in students' punctuality to school since the launch of the new punctuality system. In January 2023 a clear and robust system was introduced to ensure students attend school on time. Subsequently, punctuality to school has improved significantly with the vast majority of students arriving to school on time. We will continue to drive this improvement even further so that more and more students consistently arrive to school on time, each and every day.

As a reminder, **Students should arrive at school at 8.40am and be at lines (Years 7, 8 and 9) or in their form room (Years 10 and 11) for 8.45am.** If a student is late to school then they will have a 20-minute detention that same evening in the assembly hall or canteen hall (unless a genuine reason has been established).

## Punctuality to lessons – 'At the door within 4' (minutes)

The vast majority of students arrive to lessons on time, all of the time. However, we do have some students that are late to lessons. From **27 March 2023** we will extend the punctuality system so that it also applies to late to lessons.

We are extremely lucky that we have a modern and well maintained building and students do not need to move outside or to different buildings for lessons. Therefore, we expect all students to **arrive at their lessons within 4 minutes (At the door within 4)**, either from break, lunch or their previous lesson. If students arrive late then this will be recorded by the class teacher and the student will have a 20-minute detention that same evening in the assembly hall. Students that have had poor punctuality to lessons have been written to each week and individual meetings have been held with Mr Critchley with some students that have concerning punctuality to lesson.

We will continue to track and monitor the amount of time each student has arrived late over a week of lessons and will continue to inform you how much learning time has been missed for the that week. In order to best support, I would urge you to ensure that your child(ren) have their school bag, planner, equipment and timetable so they are fully prepared for school.

This addition to the punctuality system is to ensure that we have a continued focus on school improvement and we maximise learning time for all students.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Day  
Assistant Vice-Principal

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

HALEWOOD  
ACADEMYHALEWOOD  
ACADEMY**Halewood Academy**

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Email: [admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk)Web: [halewoodacademy.co.uk](http://halewoodacademy.co.uk)**Mr I Critchley**

Principal BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

20 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

**Proposed Changes to the School Day**

I would like your views on our proposal to change the start and finish time of the school day from September 2023.

The proposed changes will mean a slightly longer school day which will allow for more time during tutor period and also a longer sitting of 45 minutes at lunchtime. The proposed changes will result in one breaktime and one lunchtime for all pupils, rather than the split provision we currently operate. The changes will allow for a 32.5 hour school week which has been recommended by the Department for Education (DfE).

There is no change to the length or number of lessons. The current and proposed times are on the reverse of this letter. The school day will begin 15 minutes earlier at 8.30am and finish 15 minutes later at 3.00pm.

Based upon observations and visits to other local schools we are confident that students will have adequate time to eat their lunch. These changes will allow us to have an enrichment offer at lunchtime such as access to the 3G, Sports Hall, IT facilities, library and other extra-curricular activities which staff may choose to offer. I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community, and will have a positive effect on your child's education.

We have worked closely with the local authority catering team who, with our support, have identified where we can have additional serveries to ensure that students can receive their meal in good time. We will also open up additional toilet facilities to ensure there is enough toilets when all students are on break and lunch together. We will also work with Merseytravel regarding their bus service should these proposals come into effect.

If you would like to make any comment on the above proposals these will be considered and a final decision will be communicated to staff, students and parents/carers before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Feedback on the proposals should be emailed to [admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk). The deadline for replies is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Any feedback should have 'School Day' as the subject title.

Yours sincerely

Mr Critchley  
Principal

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY

## Current Day

<b>Start of the Day is 8.45am</b>	
Registration	8.45am - 9.00am
Period 1	9.00am - 10.00am
<b>Break 1 (Yrs 11,10 &amp; 7)</b>	<b>10.00am -10.15am</b>
Period 2 (Yrs 8 & 9)	10.00am - 11.00am
<b>Period 2 (Yrs 11,10 &amp; 7)</b>	<b>10.15am – 11.15am</b>
Break 2 (Yrs 8 & 9)	11.00am -11.15am
Period 3 (Yrs 8 & 9)	11.15am - 12.15pm
<b>Lunch 1 (Yrs 11,10 &amp; 7)</b>	<b>12.15pm -12.45pm</b>
Period 4 (Yrs 8 & 9)	12.15pm - 1.15pm
Period 4 (Yrs 11,10 & 7)	12.45pm – 1.45pm
<b>Lunch 2 (Yrs 8 &amp; 9)</b>	<b>1.15pm -1.45pm</b>
Period 5	1.45pm – 2.45pm
<b>Finish of the Day is 2.45pm</b>	

## Proposed Day

<b>Start of the Day is 8.30am – lines or tutor room</b>	
Registration	8.35am - 8.55am
Period 1	8.55am - 9.55am
Period 2	9.55am - 10.55am
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.55am - 11.15am</b>
Period 3	11.15am - 12.15pm
Period 4	12.15pm - 1.15pm
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>1.15pm – 2.00pm</b>
Period 5	2.00pm - 3.00pm
<b>Finish of the Day is 3.00pm</b>	

# WORLD BOOK DAY 2023



HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY

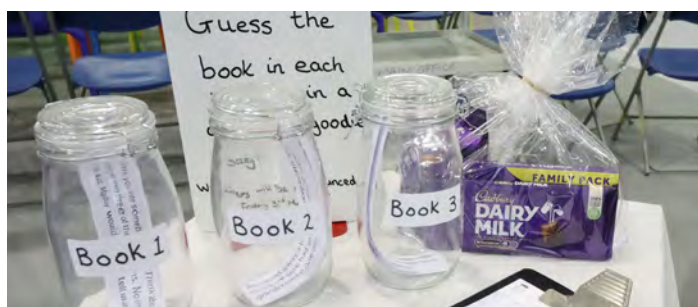
During our World Book Day 2023 we had a wide range of events on in the library to help promote a love of reading. Before school we enjoyed discussing our favourite books and why they are important to us.

During break we drew our favourite characters and discussed why we like them. At lunch we had a book tasting event where students could come and choose a book extra to read and also receive a tasty treat!

At the end of the day we enjoyed listening to some of our favourite celebrities reading their favourite books. Throughout the day we also had a competition, 'guess the books in the jars!' We had four winners and each received a chocolate goodie bag.

All of the students involved thoroughly enjoyed the day and a big thank you goes to the library monitors for all of their help and support throughout the day,

Mrs L Clarke  
Reading Co-ordinator



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# THAT FRIDAY FEELING ATTENDANCE DRAW



HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY



## That Friday Feeling Attendance Draw



- **You need to be in to win!** • **£20 voucher per year group** •

Every pupil who is in school on a Friday will be entered into a raffle.

*(The raffle occurs every Friday)*



HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY

## From all at Halewood Academy, congratulations and welcome!

Welcome to the pupils who  
will be joining us in Year 7  
in September 2023.

We will be in touch shortly  
with some welcome information.



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# HOMEWORK AND REVISION

## 'GET ON THE B.U.S.'

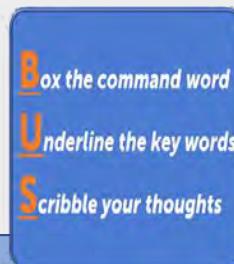


HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY

### How can I help my young person with Homework and revision?

When answering any type of question, our students are asked to 'get on the B.U.S.'. This is a technique we use to help students focus on what the question is really asking them, helping them to write concisely and achieve the best marks they can.

### So how does this work?



#### Get the pupils to read the question thoroughly

Use the strategy to encourage pupils to thoroughly read the exam questions with the acronym of **BUS**.

**Box** – Firstly, students box the command word. This highlights what type of answer the examiner is looking for.

**Underline** – Then they underline key words, this allows them to jog the pupil's memory of the topic.

**Scribble** – Finally they glance over the question again to gain any more information thus allowing them to analyse the question thoroughly and depict what they examiner is asking. Then bullet point (scribble) some notes

#### Teach the meaning of command words

Do your pupils know the difference between **state, describe, explain** and **suggest**?

Taking to focus on these words will be time well spent. Using clear examples of each command word allows pupils to understand what the examiner is looking for in a question. Your child's teacher would have worked on this in school, perhaps just check on their understanding.

#### Use acronyms to scaffold long-answer questions, for example?

**Point** – stating the point of the paragraph.

**Evidence** – including key quotes, dates or statistics to strengthen your point.

**Terminology** – including key words about the subject matter.

**Analysis** – explain how your point is proven and link to your knowledge about the subject.

**Link** – Link your ideas back to the original question.

#### Examples of common command word

**Analyse:** separate information into components and identify their characteristics

**Argue:** present a reasoned case

**Assess:** make an informed judgement

**Calculate:** work out the value of something

**Comment:** present an informed opinion

**Compare:** identify similarities

**Consider:** review and respond to given information

**Contrast:** identify differences

**Criticise:** assess worth against explicit expectations

**Debate:** present different perspectives on an issue

**Deduce:** draw conclusions from information provided

**Define:** specify meaning Describe set out characteristics

**Discuss:** present key points Explain set out purposes or reasons Illustrate present clarifying examples **Estimate:** assign an approximate value

**Evaluate** judge from available evidence

**Examine:** investigate closely

**Explore:** investigate without preconceptions about the outcome

**Give:** produce an answer from recall

**Interpret:** translate information into recognisable form Outline set out main characteristics

**Justify:** support a case with evidence

**Review:** survey information

**Relate:** demonstrate connections between items

**Prove:** demonstrate validity on the basis of evidence

**Suggest:** present a possible case

**Summarise:** present principal points without detail

**State:** express in clear terms

# SPORTS UPDATE



HALEWOOD  
ACADEMY

Amazing performance from the **Year 8A** boys football team tonight! We played **All Saints** in the **Knowsley league**. They have beaten us in the past and we knew they're an excellent opponent! We started strongly and dominated possession! Incredibly in the 1st half we hit the woodwork on three occasions! How unlucky! At halftime we knew we had to keep playing well to win.

The boys continued to press and substitute **Riley** opened the scoring with a back post finish! Almost from the kick off All Saints equalised from a brilliant volley! Game on! We continued to press and **Low** slotted home after a brilliant pass from **Hickey**! Substitute **Fox** completed the scoring with a neat finish! 3-1! What a performance! **Mr Rylands** was delighted! A whole squad effort! Congratulations lads!



# 3-1



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# YEAR 9 UPDATE

Many of you will be aware that the **Year 9** team were successful this week and are through to the semi finals of the **ESFA National Cup**. I would just like to share some feedback that the boys got following their recent quarter final win.

Congratulations on the win, it was well deserved.

*All the staff at Halewood made us feel very welcome and looked after us and I wanted to thank you for that. The students we met walking around were great and they represented your school exceptionally well.*

*It was a totally different feel to our game in the round prior and I can only thank you for that. I really hope you do go on and win the competition as you have a great set of lads there.*

*Walker Academy school*

Thankyou to everyone that has supported the team so far. Just to let you know our next game is at home on the 22nd March.

Mr O'Leary 2nd in PE





# Mindful March 2023

MONDAY

TUESDAY

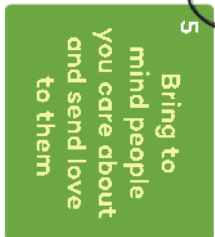
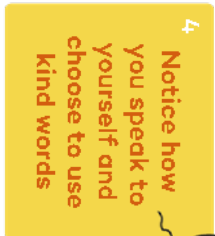
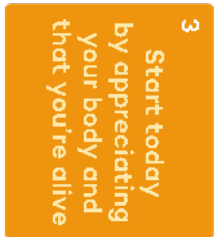
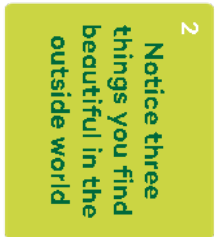
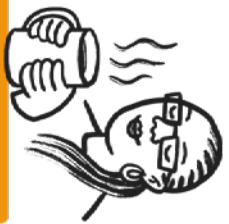
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today [dayofhappiness.net](http://dayofhappiness.net)

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

**Happier · Kinder · Together**

