

End of Year Letter – July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year at OHA, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Working together with our families is one of the greatest strengths of our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for the trust you place in us every day.

Looking back on the year, there have been many moments that have made me feel proud to be Principal of OHA. Two particular highlights were our Academy Celebration Evening in May and our fantastic Sports Day in June. Both events showcased the very best of our students and provided wonderful opportunities to celebrate their achievements, resilience, hard work and determination.

This year, we have continued to invest heavily in teaching and learning to ensure that every student receives the highest quality education possible. We have enhanced resources, provided extensive professional development for staff, and worked closely across the Trust to further strengthen our curriculum. This exciting work will begin to come to life in classrooms from September, helping to make learning even more engaging and ambitious for our young people.

Beyond the classroom, our Personal Development Days have continued to provide students with valuable opportunities to learn about the wider world, develop important life skills and explore future career pathways. These experiences play an important role in helping our students grow into confident, compassionate and well-rounded young people.

I would like to make a special mention of our Year 10 students, who represented the academy brilliantly during their work experience placements. Their maturity, commitment and positive attitude were praised by employers and reflected exceptionally well on our school community. My sincere thanks also go to Mrs Naylor, whose outstanding organisation ensured the programme was such a success.

Our Cadet Programme has gone from strength to strength this year and continues to attract more students than ever before. We have even had the privilege of supporting other local schools as they begin developing their own programmes. My heartfelt thanks go to Mr Wright, Mr Phillips, Mr Salt and Mrs Harrison for the time, enthusiasm and dedication they bring to providing such an enriching experience for our students.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited to welcome 221 new Year 7 students to OHA. This reflects the confidence that local families continue to place in our school, and we are delighted that so many young people will begin their secondary education journey with us. Strong relationships with our feeder primary schools have helped make this possible, and I would particularly like to thank Mrs Douglas and Miss Collis for their excellent transition programme, which has helped our new students feel excited, confident and ready for the next chapter.

While we celebrate the successes of this year, we will also be saying goodbye to a number of valued colleagues who are leaving us at the end of term:

- Mr Jones (DT Technician) – retiring after 23 years of dedicated service
- Mrs Gardner (English)

- Miss Wilkes (PE / Personal Development)
- Mrs Ricci (English)
- Miss Robb (Science)
- Mrs Milne (Head of Year)
- Mr Hughes (Science)
- Miss Evans (Pastoral Support)

Each of these colleagues has made an important contribution to the life of our academy, and we thank them for their commitment, care and professionalism. They have supported countless students and colleagues over the years and leave with our very best wishes. Several are moving on to exciting promotions and new opportunities, and whilst they will be greatly missed, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at OHA. They will always remain part of the Horizon family.

A reminder of our return to school arrangements in September:

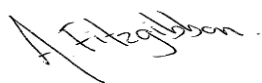
- Monday 31st August – School closed (Bank Holiday)
- Tuesday 1st September – Staff INSET Day
- Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7 and Year 11 Induction Day
- Thursday 3rd September – School open for all students (Years 7–11)

Finally, I would like to thank every parent and carer for your support throughout the year. Whether it has been encouraging your child with their learning, ensuring strong attendance, supporting school events or simply being there for them each day, your role in their success is invaluable. The recent spell of exceptionally warm weather has presented challenges for everyone, and I am especially grateful for your ongoing support and cooperation during this period.

Together, we have enjoyed a year filled with achievement, growth and memorable experiences, and I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished as a school community.

I wish you and your families a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed, ready to learn, and excited for another successful year at OHA.

Warmest regards,



A Fitzgibbon
Principal



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