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**LYNN GROVE
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

18 July 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians

What an incredible year we have had! If you follow our updates on Facebook, you'll see we've had a particularly busy and eventful summer term. Highlights have included our incredible Community Day where we worked with 26 projects across our local area to give back and learn new skills. Pupils sang at care homes, helped to renovate outside areas at Wroughton Primary Academy, learnt about local career opportunities in engineering and the NHS and even taught our local neighbours how to use a defibrillator. We are incredibly proud of how Lynn Grove pupils demonstrated their community values.

In addition to this, we've had Arts Week, rewards trips, our first ever college festivals and of course a sports day to remember. Congratulations to Orion who came in first place.

Our Senior Year pupils made us so proud with their incredible work ethic, attendance at intervention and mature approach to their exams. We are excited to welcome them back into school for their GCSE results on Thursday 21 August. It was wonderful to celebrate the end of an incredible Lynn Grove journey at their recent prom.

Congratulations to our 210 pupil leaders who have worked towards some very prestigious accolades this academic year. This has included The Diana Award, our School of Sanctuary Award and the Climate Action Award.

Finally, we were so proud to have achieved Steplab Hub Status in May this year: an award given to only 9 other secondary schools nationally. It marks Lynn Grove's excellence in teacher training and development and means we will welcome visitors from other schools next academic year to showcase our fantastic classrooms.

I would like to thank you for the role you have played in ensuring your child has excellent attendance and engages fully in everything our school has to offer. Working in partnership with our parents is really key.



There are two updates I would like to give you in this letter.

Uniform

As you'll know we have had a real push on smart uniform in this last term. The pupils have been told that this is because we are proud of them and it's important they are dressed smartly in school and when walking in the community. Thank you too to parents and carers who have donated old uniform to our New2U shop – this will be so helpful to our community. I wrote to parents last academic year to consult on the new school skirt – I hope it has been helpful to have the year to make this change. From September we expect any pupil who wears a skirt to wear the new pleated skirt available from Harrisons. This should be worn appropriately. A reminder about other key aspects of uniform which we expect pupils to have:

- A college tie (Senior Year will be given their new tie in September)
- A school blazer
- Studs only in ears – no long earrings & no facial piercings (nose retainer acceptable)
- Neutral coloured nails
- Black leather or leather type shoes (no trainers)

The school uniform policy is available in the parent handbook and on the school website.

If pupils arrive at school in incorrect uniform, they will be given an opportunity to borrow this from our school supply for the day. If pupils refuse to wear correct uniform or change into correct uniform, they will be required to spend their day out of circulation and completing their learning in the IER.

From September, if pupils have PE during period 5, we will permit them to leave school site in their PE kit if it is correct. This is to enable more time during their lessons. A reminder about our PE kit expectations:

- White polo shirt (optional LGA branded one available at Harrisons)
- Black shorts, skorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers
- Studs (plastic only for astro, plastic or metal for the field)

Mobile Phones and School Bags

We are very aware of the challenges with screen time and mobile phones amongst young people, and of the differing views on this topic. Following our successful screen time challenge and parent forum, it has become clear to us that Lynn Grove would like to do more to ensure pupils are completely screen-free during the school day. The vast majority of our pupils adhere to our mobile phone policy, but we have noticed the number of incidents involving use of mobile phones during the school day has increased. As you'll be aware, there is considerable research into



the impact of mobile phones on cyberbullying and mental health. We have considered many approaches to this and have tried to strike a balance between tightening up on mobile phones in school and still having them available in case pupils need to be in touch with you after school.

From September, pupils will be expected to have their phones off and inside their school bags from when they enter the school gates. They will not be permitted to have them in their blazers, sleeves or pockets. They will also not be allowed to use them on school site before or after school. This is a change as we currently allow pupils to use their phones on the school site before and at the end of the school day. If a phone is seen or heard by a member of staff it will be confiscated. When this happens the first time, pupils will be able to pick their phone up at the end of the day. You will be informed by email. Subsequent confiscations will require a family member that is listed on Arbor to collect the phone at the end of the day. Separate arrangements will be made for pupils who use their devices for medical needs. We have made this decision to ensure that the school day remains focused on learning, and we reduce opportunities to be distracted by mobile phones. Of course, if a pupil needs to contact you during the school day, they will be supported to do so from their college office. If you need to contact your child in an emergency then please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will get a message to your child. I hope that you will support us on this tighter line on phone use. We think it will make a positive difference to their capacity to focus on learning.

It leaves me to wish you a wonderful summer with your families. We look forward to seeing Years 7 and 11 return to school on Wednesday 3 September at 8.30am and Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Thursday 4 September at 8.30am..

With very best wishes

Mrs Brookes
Principal