Lancaster Academy

Newsletter

August - October 2026



Where students belong, thrive and are ready.



A message from our Principal

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a real privilege taking over as the new Principal this term and thank you for all of the messages of support, they have been really appreciated.

There have been many positives to share as we come to the end of the first half-term. Student Voice has gone from strength to strength with over 100 students involved from all year groups across all aspects of school life. A recent visitor, after meeting the Senior Team of Ambassadors noted that they were, '...impressive, articulate, confident, and clearly proud of their school. The feedback from the Student Ambassadors is that they really feel the sense of belonging and change. As a direct result of their voice, breaks and lunches have been changed to allow them to go outside, the MacMillan Coffee morning raised hundreds of pounds and Friday was a sea of yellow to support Mental Health Awareness.

Our recent Open Evening was a huge success with lots of positive feedback. Y5s and 6s enjoyed the opportunity to sample the delicious lunch menu, exciting science experiments and our extensive enrichment offer. A Y6 parent from a local primary school stated that, 'I don't know what you're doing here, but you're nailing it'. School tours are continuing as we approach the secondary school deadline of October 31st.

I hope you enjoy an enjoyable half-term and look forward to sharing more news of our successes next half-term.



A message from our Heads of Year

Year 7 - Settling in really well

This half term has been a busy but incredibly exciting one for our new Year 7 students! They have embraced life at secondary school with enthusiasm, settled in brilliantly and begun to find their feet in their new environment. It has been wonderful to see them building new friendships, getting to know one another and making the most of the many opportunities available to them. They have also enjoyed exploring a wide range of subjects, discovering new interests and making the most of everything school life has to offer.

We have already completed our first trips of the year, with half of the year group visiting the Botanical Gardens and the other half heading to Bradgate Park as part of one of our READY Days. These experiences have provided fantastic opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom, work together and create lasting memories.
It has also been lovely to see so many Year 7 students getting involved in our extra-curricular clubs, trying new activities and developing their skills and interests. Some students have already had the exciting opportunity to represent the school at sports fixtures, showing great enthusiasm and team spirit.

Overall, it has been a fantastic start to their secondary school journey, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, build friendships, embrace new opportunities and, most importantly, enjoy all that school life has to offer in the months ahead!

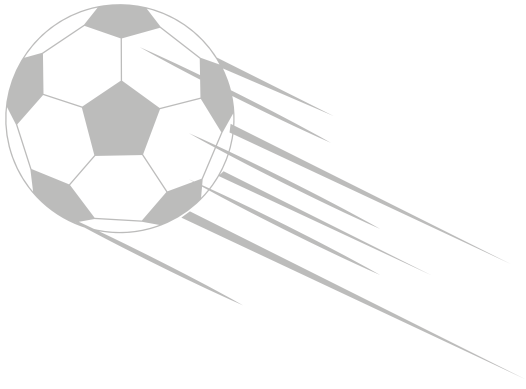
Year 8 - What a great start to the year!

They have settled back into school and are getting used to their new routines. They have shown a positive attitude towards their learning, worked well with their classmates and taken on new challenges with confidence. It has been lovely to see them growing in independence, building friendships and getting involved in lessons and activities.

We have had a fantastic first term, getting off to a brilliant start with a great Ready Day that helped everyone settle in and build positive relationships. They have enjoyed an excellent interform competition, with girls and boys competing together, showing great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Another highlight was the exciting trip to DMU, which provided a valuable opportunity to learn and experience something new.

Year 8 have also represented the school brilliantly in both the girls' and boys' football teams during the East v West football competition, demonstrating commitment, teamwork and school pride.

Overall, it has been a brilliant first term for Year 8, full of exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and positive achievements!



Year 9 - A Brilliant Start!

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the academic year, demonstrating kindness, maturity and a positive attitude towards school life. READY Day was a particular highlight, with the whole year group engaging enthusiastically and working brilliantly with their teachers.

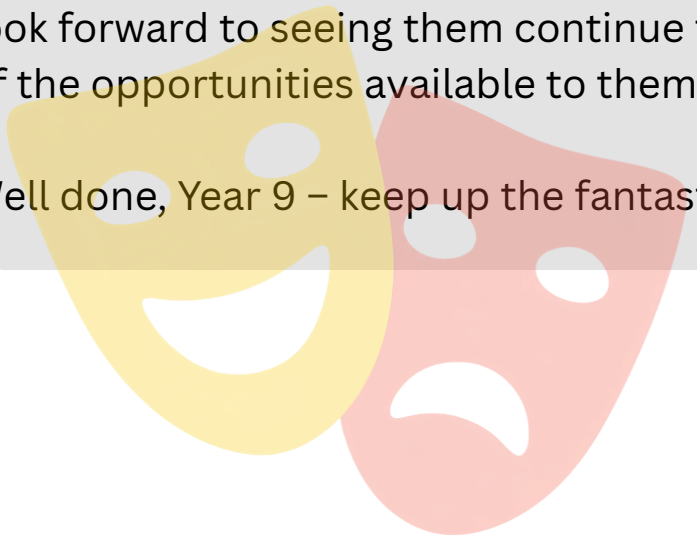
Students have been collecting their READY points with great enthusiasm, and many have already achieved Bronze Ambassador status. Keep up the excellent work and keep collecting those points!

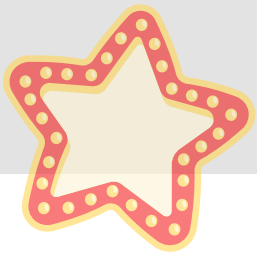
It has been lovely to see students enjoying the outdoor spaces during break and lunchtime, while engagement in lessons has been excellent. Year 9 are settling into their GCSE studies in their options subjects really well, showing a positive attitude towards the exciting challenges ahead. PSHE lessons and time with their Form Tutors has been amazing with a really positive vibe around the Year 9 area.

A particular highlight has been their fantastic engagement in Performing Arts, working with the Curve Theatre. The Pastoral Team have also been incredibly proud of the year group's positive participation in assemblies and the maturity they continue to demonstrate.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know Year 9 better this term. We are delighted with the way they have embraced the new academic year and look forward to seeing them continue to grow, achieve and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Well done, Year 9 – keep up the fantastic work!





Year 10 - 1 year until GCSEs

Notices:
Ready Day 1 was a real success for a significant majority with students really engaging and thriving in their "I'm going to be..." sessions. The next one, in November, will have us departing in a variety of directions for some aspiration-inspiring trips! Look out for the information coming to you very soon.

Reminders:
Please encourage your child to get themselves into school, and on time. Attendance is crucial throughout these GCSE Key Stage 4 Years and we are seeing exciting progress from those who have been in throughout this half term.
Please encourage our Young People to send me their successes to share once we return from half term.

Year 10 have generally settled well, making it a difficult task each week to chose the recipients of our Year 10 Team postcards! Our aim of aspiring to achieve our Personal Excellence - be the best version of ourselves each and every day - is flowing through lessons with the vast majority of pupils showing brilliant efforts in many subjects. It also forms a key part of the conversations I have with the young people each day and the responses absolutely delight me at times...not always in the ways I would have expected; successes in the gym/basketball arena or through the extended reading project both impress me and make me proud to lead such a potential-fuelled cohort!!

Our Black History month assembly was well received and I challenged the group to bring me their successes this month to share when we return from half term.

Thank you to those who have reached out this half term; I have appreciated the welcome and patience as I settle in to the role leading Lancaster's best Year group!

Year 11 - getting ready for their GCSEs

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to the new term and have settled into the demands of their final year with a positive attitude. Through assemblies and focused tutor time activities, students have been reflecting on their Year 11 journey and the importance of making the most of every opportunity as they work towards their GCSEs.

Our sessions have focused on key areas including organisation, revision, resilience, motivation and preparing effectively for the challenges ahead. We are encouraging all students to remain focused, make positive choices, and take responsibility for their learning as they work towards achieving their very best results.

Upcoming Mock Exams

Our Year 11 mock exams will begin on 7th November 2026. These exams provide students with a valuable opportunity to familiarise themselves with the exam process, experience exam conditions and identify areas they need to focus on in preparation for their final GCSE examinations. This will help students understand what to expect and plan their revision effectively to achieve their best possible results come June 2027.

Student Ambassador Teams

What are the SATs for?

The Student Ambassador Teams aim to ensure that students' voices are heard and valued, to work collaboratively with staff to improve the school community, and to promote an inclusive, positive, and supportive learning environment for all students.



Quality of Education SAT – shaping what we learn, how we learn and how we are assessed

A,C,E (Attitude, Commitment, Excellence) SAT – making sure everyone lives the Lancaster values and feels respected and included.

Health and Wellbeing SAT – helping shape the curriculum that prepares you for life beyond school.

Leadership SAT – making sure our school runs fairly and supports everyone to succeed.

Operations SAT - working with our Operations Manager to ensure efficient, robust, and sustainable systems are in place that create the best environment for our students.

Belonging SAT - is about making sure that every voice is heard and ensuring that everyone feels they belong at Lancaster

This year so far the Health and wellbeing SAT have organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan and raised over £215 and they have also planned activities where everyone is encouraged to wear something yellow for World Mental Health Day. The Quality of Education SAT have been surveying students about lessons and learning. Each SAT meets at least every half term and it ensures that every voice is heard within the college.

September Ready Day

Year 7 - Teamwork, as a key employability skill, is what our year 7 students got the opportunity to practice on their visits to Bradgate Park and the Botanical Gardens. They were set teamwork and observational challenges to complete as part of their experiencing different workplaces visit.



Year 8 - Creativity and problem solving were the employability skills in demand for our year 8 students as they began the first part of their design brief – to design an office space for Instagram. Ben and Karolina from Thorpes Joinery came over to introduce the design brief to students, who then set to work on producing their designs. These designs will be judged in future Ready days, eventually leading to a small group of students with their successful designs going across to visit Thorpes Joinery on site.



September Ready Day

Year 9 – Numeracy, problem-solving and evaluation skills in the workplace were the employability theme for our Y9 students as they looked at how maths and numeracy play in role in being a successful engineer. Delivered by the Maths faculty, students got to investigate different types of engineering, finishing off with the tall tower challenge, where they had to create as tall a tower as possible, capable of holding weight of a golf ball. The competition was tough but Faculty Lead, Mrs Patel, was impressed with the range of ideas the students produced



Year 10 – Developing career curiosity was the key idea for our Y10 students on their 'how to be a' day. Alongside the careers fair, students looked at different career pathways, with an emphasis on curriculum subjects, for example, in Science – how to be a horticulturalist, or English – how to be a content creator.
As you can see, the broad scope of activities and content provide the students with an ever-expanding understanding of the world of work and gives them specific opportunities to continue to develop their employability skills.



September Ready Day

Year 11 - Networking pathways to success – Our annual careers fair
The careers fair is an event which I always look forward to, as it gives our students in year 11, the opportunity to practise their networking skills when interacting with adult professionals. These could be representatives from universities, further education colleges, to a range of apprenticeship providers and employers.
It is important to us for our students to have as much access to the world beyond Lancaster so they can build their own networks and investigate all of their post-16 options and pathways they can follow, once they have achieved their required GCSE grades.
For some students, the idea of talking to adults in this setting can be quite daunting, but with encouragement and preparation, our students were able to approach, greet and interact with our guests in a way that represented the Academy brilliantly.





Forest School





Forest School updates:

Forest school has got off to a brilliant start this term! The learners have taken part in some land management using a variety of tools, enjoyed building dens and having fun in the hammock. We have also created tie dye bunting using blackberries, made bracelets using Nordic braiding techniques and enjoyed drinking hot chocolate. The learners have built their confidence by taking risks and working outside of their comfort zones and worked on their teamwork skills by joining in with lots of different team games during our Forest School sessions.





MacMillan Coffee Morning

Earlier this year, through Student Voice, our students told us they wanted more opportunities to support charities and make a positive difference in the wider community. True to their word, our Health and Wellbeing Student Ambassadors, supported by our Senior Student Ambassador Team, organised and hosted Lancaster Academy's first-ever Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff and students.

The day began with a community breakfast, where students and staff came together to enjoy croissants, juice and coffee, accompanied by classic music, games of chess, colouring activities and plenty of conversation. The warm and welcoming atmosphere continued throughout the day, with a hugely popular cake sale at break and lunchtime helping to raise an incredible amount.

The event was a fantastic example of student leadership in action, bringing students and staff together for a morning filled with fun, laughter and community spirit. A huge thank you goes to everyone who donated, volunteered or attended, helping to make the event such a success. Most importantly, the money raised will support the incredible work of Macmillan Cancer Support, helping individuals and families affected by cancer through practical, emotional, physical and financial support when they need it most.

We are incredibly proud of all the students and staff involved for turning an idea from Student Voice into a meaningful event that has made a real difference. We look forward to building on this success and supporting many more worthwhile causes in the future.

Total Raised: £218.25!



Sports Leaders

Our recent primary school sports festival, delivered by our Sports Leaders was an overwhelming success; showcasing exceptional leadership, inclusivity, and excellence across all activities. We hosted 9 local primary schools with a variety of multi-sports activities on the field. Staff from Inspire together and visiting primary school staff, highly commended our student leaders for their professionalism and impact on the younger participants. Students from the primary schools had a fantastic time and built confidence throughout. Our young leaders excelled as role models and created a lovely, supportive environment, along with a good element of competition. Students were very complimentary of Lancaster Academy, with many saying they would like to attend our school when they are older.

Year 8 girls football attended the city football tournament, building their confidence and resilience on the pitch. They showed some great defensive play and scored several fantastic goals. The girls are committed to training every week, working hard towards the next round of the competition. The KS4 girls netball team enjoyed their first round of the city competition at Soar Valley whereby they scored over 10 nets and began to work on some great shooting combinations.



Space Park Trip

We discover industry – Space Park Design Brief presentations
The We Discover Industry project is an initiative brought together by our local careers hub (LLBSP) and the LEBC whose aim is to promote STEM career pathways to girls. This project will run for three years, and will conclude when the girls are in year 10.
We are lucky enough to be involved with this and today we were able to see the first results of the girls' hard work, when we visited the Space Park in Leicester, Wednesday 7th October.
The girls had to put together a design brief for a 3-D printed object, which would make life easier for astronauts living on the space station. The girls' designs were then shortlisted and the aim of today's trip to the Space Park was to present their designs to a panel of STEM ambassadors.
Panellists were particularly impressed by our girls' knowledge, confidence, belief in their designs and their presentation skills. This is yet another example of how important it is to get involved in such activities as they help to developing our students employability skills further, getting them ready for their next steps.
As an added bonus, the girls got to have a tour of the Space Park, looking at the technologies, examples and prototypes of equipment that had been launched into space, and they all had the opportunity to hold a meteor, a piece of moon rock and a rock from Mars!
It's amazing to think that our small city of Leicester has such exciting opportunities for our students consider as potential career pathways – a career in space!



The Brook

The Brook - Year 7 Newsletter HT 1

Welcome to The Brook's newsletter. New students have made a fantastic start to life at Lancaster Academy. They have made new friends, learned many new skills and navigated the wider school.

READY DAY

Our first READY Day saw us take on the climb to Old John at Bradgate Park. For some of our students, this was the first time that they had been to the wonderful park.

It was a hot day, the hottest day in September....

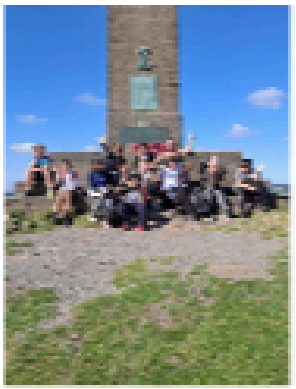
We took a slow stroll to the top, finding shade where we could rest, before we stopped for our lunch. We had a great view.

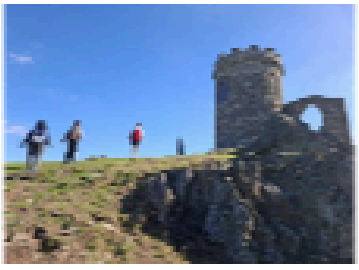
We made it to the top and back down again.

We were then on the hunt for the Peacocks. We spotted one on the way back down from Lady Jane Grey's house. We saw some huge old trees and a deer or two.



Bradgate Park





TOP TIP
Practice Maths with games online
www.topmarks.co.uk



Cooking



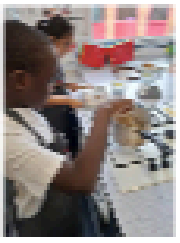


FOREST SCHOOL

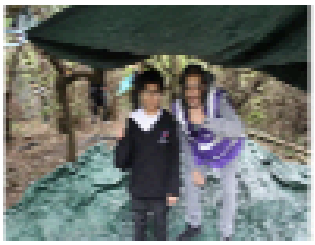
This year we have a Forest School teacher who delivers an exciting outdoor curriculum. Students work together to solve problems, create shelters, forage for items, they have recently developed natural dyes from natural resources.
There is also a focus on understanding environmental issues.

LIFE SKILLS

A fabulous start to the Year in our Life Skills classes for Year 7. We have prepared some sweet treats. Flap Jacks and Carrot Cakes.
Our Year 7 group also catered for The Brook Coffee Afternoon Event, learning Life Skills along the way. We will build on skills in these lessons to support Independent Living and Preparation for Adulthood.

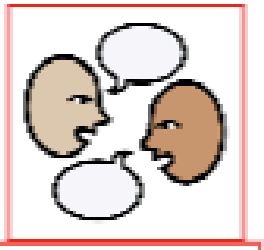












Coffee Afternoon: We were thrilled to welcome both our returning families and those new to our community. We also welcomed our Experts at Hand, representatives from The Learning Communication and Interaction Team and The Quality Inclusion Team.
This was a great opportunity for parents / carers and professionals to speak to each other in a relaxed setting, learn about The Brook, enjoys the students' presentations and share their successes. We look forward to seeing you all again at future events.

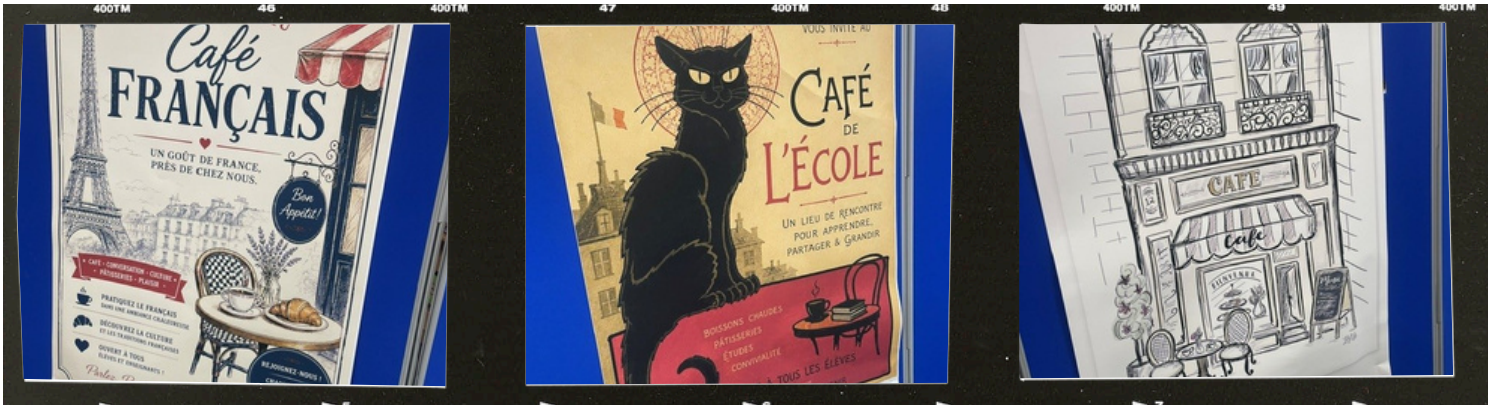
French Café

To celebrate the European Day of Languages at Lancaster Academy, our French learners were invited to a “Café français”, where they had the opportunity to experience a little taste of French life and culture! During the afternoon, students enjoyed sampling a selection of French cheeses (Brie, Port Salut and Comté) with bread, alongside croissants and pains au chocolat.

To round off the session, students relaxed and enjoyed the French animated film Un monstre à Paris.

It was a wonderful afternoon filled with French food, culture and language - a lovely way to celebrate the richness and diversity of languages!





Library Author Visits

Last week, we were delighted to welcome back author and poet Steven Camden for his annual creative writing workshop with our Year 7 students!
Starting with a simple thought, “I'm hungry”, Steven inspired students to unleash their imaginations, explore new ideas and discover how even the simplest thought can become the beginning of an exciting story. Our Year 7s threw themselves into the workshop with fantastic enthusiasm and every student received a signed copy of Steven's poetry collection, Everything All At Once, which captures the emotions and experiences of starting secondary school.

Alongside our recent visit from author and poet Steven Camden, we were delighted to welcome the brilliant children’s author Emily Jane Clark to our school!
Emily is the author of some fantastic books, including The Beast of Knobbly Bottom and the hilarious Cringe Club series. During her visit, she shared the inspiration behind the latest book in the Cringe Club series and took our students on her journey to becoming a children’s comedy author.
It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to discover more about the creative process, hear first-hand what it takes to become an author, and learn about the stories behind the books they love.
We are thrilled to offer our students these inspiring opportunities to meet the people behind the books, spark their imaginations, and encourage the next generation of enthusiastic readers and talented writers!



#HelloYellow Day

Hello Yellow at Lancaster! 💛

On Friday 9th October, staff and students across Lancaster turned the school into a sea of yellow as we came together to support Hello Yellow and raise awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

During form time, students reflected on the importance of kindness, looking after themselves and others, and recognising that it is okay to ask for help when needed. As part of the activities, students created positive notes and messages of encouragement, which will be displayed around the school. We hope these messages will provide comfort, reassurance and a reminder that nobody has to face challenges alone.

The day also provided an opportunity to launch our new Student Support Boxes, which allow students to self-refer for support whenever they feel they need it. This is an important step in ensuring that every student knows how to access help. In the coming weeks, we will be expanding this further with additional self-referral routes through the school website and QR codes displayed on postcards around the school, making support even more accessible.

Our key message to students is simple: you are not alone, support is available, and asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

It was fantastic to see so many students and staff embracing the day, creating a vibrant splash of yellow across the school while supporting such an important cause. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day both meaningful and fun. Together, we continue to build a school community where everyone feels seen, supported and valued. 💛🌟



Family Assistance

Please see the below documents detailing the services available through the newly formed South Leicester Cluster, which Lancaster is a part of.

We will be using these services to support and signpost our students and parents moving forward. Please take a few minutes to read through the attachment so you are familiar with the new resources and pathways available to our families.





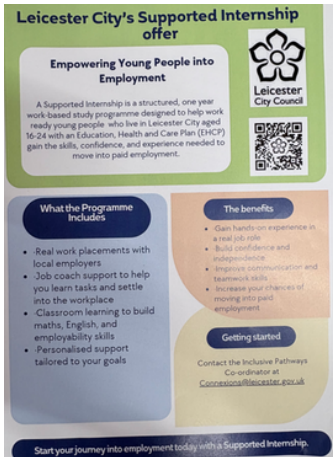




















Upcoming Events



November 2026

4th - READY Day

5th - Year 10 Parents' Evening

9th - Year 11 Mock Exams start

20th - Odd Socks Day, bringing awareness to Anti-Bullying week, which is 16th - 20th November

December 2026

3rd - Year 9 Parents' Evening

10th - Christmas Concert

19th - Christmas Holiday's start

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