

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

15th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I suspect every Headteacher in the country will be writing a similar letter, and it feels a little clichéd to say it, but the start of this term has been incredible.

The start of term may have seemed a little unusual for parents, with slight alterations to the length of the school day during the first week. I wanted to offer my feedback and share what we have been doing.

We invest significant time in making sure that we are all clear about what we want to achieve and, more importantly, how we are going to achieve it. Without that clarity, there is a risk that we are just extremely busy rather than work towards something that is planned, deliberate and guaranteed.

What did we do?

All this work was centered around our HELP Strategy and our commitment to enabling every child to achieve.

Staff Training Days

Our training days focused on:

- Planning and preparation, consistently high-quality classrooms, Classroom standards, Examination preparation processes, Pastoral care, Attendance and belonging .

Kickstart Programme

During the first full week back, the first two lessons of each day were dedicated to our Kickstart programme and being clear how important it is to be a good person (the KSA Way).

This included:

- Being ready to learn, the importance of belonging, creating the safest possible environment for everyone, Behaviour expectations, Kindness and respect, Character development, Manners and gratitude, Representing the school with pride .

Staff Development Each Afternoon

The final two hours of each day were devoted to further staff training, including:

- Safeguarding, Allergy awareness, being relational, Making Crew work for all, SEND developments, Effective communication, Subject planning, Other statutory training .

This approach was deliberate and carefully planned. By committing this time at the start of the year, we have ensured that students and staff are aligned in their expectations and ambitions. In simple terms, we are now clear and ready to make a difference for everybody who forms part of the KSA community.

We often talk about our ambition to be the safest and kindest school in Peterborough. For us, that means developing young people who are both successful and kind, whilst maintaining the highest possible standards. We do not see these as competing priorities. In fact, we believe they go hand in hand.

Opportunities

Over the coming weeks, Crew Leaders will begin making contact with parents and carers to introduce themselves and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

If you would like to see the school in action and experience some of the things I describe, we would be delighted to welcome you. This invite is very much for current and prospective parents/careers. There will be opportunities to visit during:

- **Golden Hour** (Roll Call, Reading and lessons)
- **Crew and lessons**
- **Lesson visits**

The link for booking these is: [Autumn 2026 Open Mornings – Fill out form](#)

Other Key Dates

- **Year 6 into Year 7 Open Evening** – Wednesday 7 October
- **Year 11 into Year 12 Open Evening** – Wednesday 11 November

I hope that by now you have settled back into the rhythm of the school year. We have been extremely pleased with the way students have returned. There have been so many positives in their attitudes, conduct and interactions with one another.

We have also welcomed record numbers into our Sixth Form and Year 7 is now full, with a waiting list in place. These are both significant milestones and reflect the confidence that families continue to place in our school.

Finally, my obsession with mobile phones continue – unfortunately all my Crew tell me they continue to have their phones in their rooms at night... one reports he was on it until 4am this morning!

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Kind regards,



Mr D Whales
Headteacher

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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