THE HEIGHTS ACADEMY
Successful Learners
Respectful Citizens
Confident Individuals

The Heights Academy, Auckland Drive, Smith's Wood, Birmingham, B36 0DD
Tel: 0121 269 6000 Email: info@heights.fet.ac

9th September 2026
Dear Parent/Carer,

September 2026 Update

I hope you had a wonderful summer break. It has been fantastic to welcome our children back to school looking relaxed, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead. Our new pupils have settled exceptionally well, and some already feel as though they have been part of our school community for years. We have welcomed a number of new staff to our team: Miss SImkin teacher of PE, dance and drama (supporting some science), Mr Norford for At and Design and Technology and Mr Wheeler for KS 2 Navigators. Our new teaching assistants are Mrs Rowe, Mrs Barlow and Miss Deng. 20 new pupils have also joined us across the year groups- our school roll will be at expected numbers in the next few weeks.

I wanted to share some of the developments taking place this year and highlight a few important updates for the coming term.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a national priority and is a key focus within our school improvement journey. We will be taking a more proactive approach to supporting good attendance and ensuring every child has the best opportunity to succeed. A separate letter has been shared recently with further information about our attendance procedures and how we can work together to support children in attending school regularly.

Catering

This term we have welcomed a new catering provider, ABM Catering. They offer freshly prepared meals that meet School Food Standards and provide a variety of healthy options for our pupils.

We have received some mixed feedback during the first few days and are working closely with ABM to address concerns and make improvements where needed. We appreciate your patience and feedback as we continue to develop the service.

School Mission, Vision and Values

Over recent months, pupils, staff and parents have worked together to refresh our school Mission, Vision and Values. These are an important part of our school culture and will help guide our future development.

Please keep an eye on our website, which will soon be updated to reflect these changes. Over the coming weeks, we will be launching the new vision and values with pupils and introducing new branding across the school.

Parent Communication Charter and Home-School Agreement

These are two important documents that we have been developing for some time. We now have draft versions ready to share and would welcome parent feedback before they are finalised.

If you would like to contribute your ideas, please consider joining our next Parent Focus Group meeting.

Behaviour Approach

Following discussions with parents and staff, we have developed a more clearly defined staged behaviour approach. This is designed to help pupils manage behaviours of concern, ensure consistency and reduce the need for suspensions wherever possible.

We are committed to being transparent about how we support children and will continue to focus on proactive and supportive strategies that help pupils succeed. This will be an item for our Parent Focus group to finalise when they next meet.

School Environment and Expectations

During the summer break, extensive decorating and repair work took place across the school. The improvements have already made a significant difference and we are incredibly proud of how the school looks.

This year, we will continue to promote pride in our school environment. Pupils who damage property or graffiti school areas will be supported to understand the impact of their actions and, where appropriate, may be asked to help put things right. We would be grateful for your support in reinforcing this message at home. In some extreme cases where we are seeing repeat destruction and expensive damage to the fabric of the building, parents will be asked to contribute towards repair work.

Parent Focus Groups

In response to feedback from last year's Parent Survey, we have established Parent Focus Groups. The purpose of these groups is to give parents a greater voice in school development and provide opportunities to influence important decisions.

There is no expectation to attend every meeting. If you are interested, simply let us know and we will arrange meeting dates and times around the availability of those who wish to participate.

We are keen to strengthen our partnership with families and would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

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Events and Fundraising Group

This year, we would also like to establish a fundraising and Parent Teacher Association-style group to support school events, activities and future projects. If organising events, helping to raise funds or supporting school initiatives is something you would enjoy, please look out for future opportunities to register your interest.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead and working together to provide the very best opportunities for all of our children.

Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely

L Walker

Lisa Walker
Head Teacher