



Our Reference: First Full Week at Fir Vale
11 September 2026

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Dear Parent / Carer,

A fantastic first full week at Fir Vale

As we come to the end of our first full week, I want to share just how positive the start to the new school year has been.

The changes we have introduced are already making a real difference. Across the school, students have responded with maturity, enthusiasm and determination. Lessons have been calm and purposeful, engagement has been strong, and our students have shown that they are ready to embrace the higher expectations we have set.

Our attendance has also been really positive. This has been our strongest start to a school year in recent times. Every day in school matters, and this excellent beginning gives us a strong foundation on which to build. Thank you for ensuring that your child attends every day, arrives on time and is ready to learn.

The changes to the school day, social spaces and lunch arrangements have also had a significant and positive impact. Students are moving around the building with greater purpose, social times feel calmer and the school is more orderly. We have listened carefully to feedback from students and staff throughout the opening days and have already made small adjustments where these will improve the experience further.

United Pathways has made an excellent start. Students are benefiting from a smaller, carefully structured environment that combines nurture with high expectations. At the same time, our mainstream school has begun the year with renewed energy, greater consistency and a strong focus on learning. United Pathways is exactly that—a pathway within Fir Vale, helping students develop the knowledge, confidence and habits they need to thrive.

Most importantly, there is a growing sense of pride across the school. Students are responding positively to clear routines and consistent expectations. These changes are helping us create the culture our young people deserve: one in which every student is **Known, Valued and Supported**, and where opportunity, respect, determination, ambition, togetherness and kindness can be seen in everyday school life.

Achievement Respect Opportunity Togetherness Kindness Determination

Principal: Mr Danny Bullock

Thank you to our parents and carers for your support. Significant school improvement requires us all to work together, and your encouragement at home has contributed greatly to such a successful opening week.

Uniform standards from Monday

As outlined in our previous communications, every student is expected to arrive wearing the full Fir Vale Academy uniform. Please ensure that your child:

- wears a black Fir Vale jumper, a white collared shirt fastened at the top and the correct Fir Vale tie for their year group
- wears plain black tailored trousers (leggings, combat-style trousers and jeans are not permitted)
- wears plain black shoes or trainers with no patterns, logos or coloured soles or heels
- wears a plain black, unpatterned hijab if choosing to wear one
- wears no jewellery other than one pair of plain studs earrings and one small, plain ring
- understands that a Fir Vale blazer may be worn but is optional.

Uniform expectations apply to every student. Staff will challenge any concerns consistently, and we will contact parents and carers where standards are not met. Please help your child avoid unnecessary disruption to their learning by checking their uniform before they leave home on Monday morning.

We have made an excellent start. Our task now is to maintain it, build upon it and continue moving Fir Vale forward together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Danny Bullock
Principal

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