

14th April 2026

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[www.firvale.com](http://www.firvale.com)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable break. It is a pleasure to welcome all students back to Fir Vale for the start of Term 3 this week. This is always a significant and exciting term, with plenty to look forward to across the academy.

As we move through the coming weeks, there are several important milestones ahead. Our Year 11 students will begin their formal examinations, marking a crucial stage in their education. Year 9 students will be making key decisions as they move through the options process, and we look forward to welcoming our incoming Year 6 pupils as part of our transition programme. Alongside this, we are excited to celebrate the end of the academic year with events such as Awards Evening, Culture Day, Sports Day and a range of reward trips recognising students' efforts and achievements.

I am writing to update you on **changes to our morning routines** following the successful changes we made to the **end of day routines** in February. This change focusses on the time the academy opens (before school starts at 8:45am), student entry points, and how the school day begins. As part of our continued work to strengthen routines and ensure a calm, purposeful start to the day, **these updates will come into effect from Monday**.

- Gates will open to students at **8:30am** (some students who wish to access the library will be able to sign up for early access from 8:20am). Prior to 8:30am, students will not be able to access the school site without prior staff permission
- Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) students will enter via the side entrance
- Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) students will enter via the front gate
- Between 8:30am and 8:45am students will be able to socialise with friends and meet staff in their designated zones
- At 8:40am students will be met by their Tutors for a structured **morning line-up that will be called at 8:45am** when **all students** should be through the school gates
- It is important to be clear that **8:45am is the start of the school day and this is not changing**
- The morning line up is an opportunity to provide key messages to all students, ensure all young people are ready for the day ahead and to have a calm and focussed start to the academy day
- Students arriving late (after 8:45am) will enter through the front gate and will be met by staff from the Senior Team, Attendance Team and Child Welfare Officers where they will be both supported and appropriately challenged to ensure they are in school, ready to learn, and making the most of every opportunity
- It is important to note that repeated lateness to the academy will result in contact home to discuss supporting your child to be punctual to the academy. Should this persist, this will require further support and intervention including meetings at the academy, home visits or external agency involvement

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**Principal: Mr Danny Bullock**

These changes are designed to support a positive start to the day for all students, ensuring clarity, consistency and a strong sense of belonging from the moment they arrive.

Finally, in my recent newsletter I invited parents and carers an opportunity to sign up to meet with me as an opportunity for to discuss the academy, the journey we are on and anything you may wish to raise. You can book at 20-minute meeting using this [link](#).

We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality and readiness for school each day. Working together, we can ensure that all students benefit from a calm, focused and successful term ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Bullock**  
Principal

If you need a translator to understand this please call the school on 0114 2439391

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم لفهم ذلك ، يرجى الاتصال بالمدرسة 01142439391

Te tumenge kampoia interpretos hoj te rozuminen feder ta vicinen pre kada cistos 0114 2439391

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