



Headteacher

Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 3QW

Mr P. Walklate BSc(Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

T: 01543 685828 E: admin@eda.staffs.sch.uk

September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new academic year. This letter outlines important information for Year 10 and 12 families now that your child has begun their journey in their examination courses. A positive and productive Year 10 and 12 lays the foundations for a successful final examination year. We aim to provide your child with amazing support, both academically and pastorally, but we recognise the family and school relationship is a critical ingredient in achieving this success. I would like to outline some key members of staff who will be supporting your child throughout this academic year:

- Mrs Copestake – Deputy Headteacher (Academic and Vocational Standards & Teaching and Learning)
- Mr Foster – Assistant Headteacher Progress and Curriculum
- Mr Maddox – Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form
- Mrs Freeman – Senior Leader (Assessment and revision)
- Mrs Such – Sixth Form Administration Support
- Mr Hall – Academy Careers Leader
- Mr Gilbert – Staffordshire Local Authority Careers Leader

These staff are working together with one aim, to ensure that your child is supported to do their very best.

Communication throughout Year 10 and 12 will be focussing on notifying families of key dates and to give you an indication of what this looks like, I have outlined the Key planned dates so far for Year 10 and 12 within this letter. The Academy calendar does change throughout the year, and we will ensure that you remain aware of any relevant changes. The remainder of this letter will outline important information for the rest of this half term and how you can support at home.

Our Assessment Cycle in Year 10 and 12

Throughout Years 10 and 12, your child will be formally assessed 3 times. The assessment times will vary as these are set by the Subject Leaders at a time they feel is best suited to capture student performance in their curriculum. To prepare students to these assessments, they will be issued a specific revision document which outlines what will be included in the assessment and what the assessment will require them to do. This revision information will be shared with families via EduLink. Once these assessments have been marked, the students will complete their 'Improvement Phase'. This is where the Teachers address misconceptions in learning and students will correct their errors. Once the improvement phase is completed, students will continue with the taught curriculum. After each assessment, your child's Teachers will input two sets of data which will be reported home:

- Your child's Attitude to Learning Grade (The progress report outlines what this means)
- Your child's Predicted Grade – this grade is our best guess professional judgement based on your child's holistic assessment picture throughout Year 10 and 12. Using our assessment evidence base, class work and home learning, this is the grade we believe your child is on track to achieve by the end of Year 11

This data is then forensically analysed by the relevant staff members and interventions are put in place to support the students.





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Year 10 and 12 Data Captures

We will be collecting data on your child's performance 3 times in total throughout Year 10 and 12. This will be completed at the following times:

- Year 10 and 12 WB 30th November 2026 (following in class assessments)
- Year 10 WB 22nd February 2027 (following in class assessments)
- Year 12 WB 15th March 2027 (following in class assessments)
- Year 10 and 12 WB 26th April 2027 (following formal assessments in the Sports Hall)

Academic Concern Evenings

These events will be an opportunity for key staff to meet with students and families where we have concerns about their progress. These meetings are purely supportive and will hopefully be used to provide advice and guidance on making improvements in both work in lessons and remaining assessments. This will also give us an opportunity to discuss your child's future career aspirations and how we can further support towards achieving this. Separate communication regarding these evenings will be sent to individual families. Academic Concern Evenings will be held after each data capture point. The first set of Academic Concern Evenings for Years 10 and 12 will be on Monday 14th December 2026. Further information about these evenings will be shared closer to the time.

The cycle of assessment preparation, assessment completion, improvement phase, intervention and Academic Concern Evenings that I have outlined above, will be completed each time we collect performance data for your child.

Careers

Within the first half term, all Year 10 and 12 students will complete a Careers Audit. This audit will gather information about their overall career aspirations and their preferred next steps, both Post 16 and Post 18. This information will be analysed, and we will ensure careers information opportunities are provided throughout the academic year, so we are supporting with their next steps. Ensuring we dovetail our Careers, Advice and Guidance to our raising achievement is key.

Year 10 and 12 Assemblies

We have started our cycle of specific revision and preparation assemblies to Year 10 and 12. These assemblies outline the Academy revision strategy and explain how the students should best prepare for forthcoming assessments. These will be set periodically throughout the year to remind and prompt students about effective revision and the importance of all assessments.

Year 10 Examination Success Evening (Monday 9th November 2026)

We will be holding a meeting whereby we outline the Year 10 journey to families. This is a face-to-face meeting and allows us to share, in greater detail, the Year 10 journey and how we can work together to ensure your child is best placed to achieve great things in the Summer 2027. The plans for this are currently being finalised and Mrs Dodge will communicate more details in due course.

To accompany the information shared above, there are two sets of key dates below, one for Year 10 and one for Year 12. I hope you found this information useful and I hope it gives a brief overview of the year ahead and the support we are putting in place to ensure that your child exceeds their potential.





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Yours faithfully,

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Year 10 Key Dates

Event	Date
Y10 Work Experience Meeting	Thursday 24 th September 2026
W/B 26th October 2026 – October Half Term	
Y10 Revision Materials to Students for Assessments	Monday 9 th November 2026
Y10 Parents Welcome to GCSE Meeting	Monday 9 th November (18:00pm)
Year 10 Careers Focus Week	W/B 16 th November 2026
INSET DAYS - Friday 27th November and Monday 30th November 2026	
MEP Evening 1	Wednesday 2 nd December 2026
EDA Careers Fayre	Tuesday 8 th December 2026
Y10 ACE Evening	Monday 14 th December 2026
W/B 21st December – 3rd January 2027 – Christmas Holidays	
INSET DAY – Monday 4th January 2027	
Y10 Revision Materials to Students for Assessments	Friday 22 nd January 2027
W/B 15th February 2027 – February Half Term	
World Book Day	Thursday 4 th March 2027
MEP Evening 2	Wednesday 10 th March 2027
Y10 Work Experience Week	W/B 15 th March 2027
Y10 Revision Materials to Students for Assessments	Friday 19 th March 2027
W/B 29th March – 9th April – Easter Holidays (Easter School)	
Y10 PCE	Tuesday 13 th April 2027
Y10 Assessment Week	W/B 26 th April 2027
1 st Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	13 th – 14 th May 2027
Y10 ACE Evening	Monday 24 th May 2027
W/B 31st May – Spring Half Term	
2 nd Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	24 th – 26 th June 2027
Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	24 th – 26 th June 2027
MEP Evening 3	Wednesday 7 th July 2027



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Year 12 Key Dates

Event	Date
School Photographs	Monday 21 st September 2026 (Full year group photograph)
Y12 Work Experience Parental Meeting 7pm	Thursday 24 th September
Y12 Meet the Tutor (15:30-17:15) - for parents of students new to EDA	Thursday 8 th October
W/B 26th October – October Half Term	
INSET Days - Friday 27th November and Monday 30th November	
Y12 art – Project 01 People & Places due	Monday 30 th November
BTEC Sport Unit 2 pre-release – this will be covered during 4 hours in lessons during the week	w/c Tuesday 8 th December
Careers Fayre	Tuesday 8 th December
Y12 Futures Day 1	Friday 11 th December
Y12 ACE Meetings (SLT & families)	Monday 14 th December
Sixth Form Christmas Fayre	Thursday 17 th December
W/B 21st December – 3rd January 2027 – Christmas Holidays	
BTEC Sport Unit 2 exam	Wednesday 6 th January
Business Unit 3 exam – 2 hours	Monday 11 th January
W/B 15th February – February Half Term	
Friday 29th March – 9th April – Easter Holidays	
Y12 Assessment Week	w/c 26 th April
BTEC Sport Unit 1	Wednesday 12 th May
Y12 ACE meetings (SLT & families)	Monday 24 th May
Futures Day 2	Thursday 27 th May
Y12 Parent Consultation Evening	Thursday 27 th May
W/B 31 May – Spring Half Term	
Year 12 Work Experience week	w/c 7 th June
Year 12 Progression Evening (parental meeting)	Thursday 10 th June
UCAS Discovery visit – NEC	Monday 21 st June
Exam Contingency Day	Wednesday 23 rd June (provisional date only)