Parent Handbook New Year 7 2024/25

Countesthorpe Academy





Respect / Resilience / Success

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Welcome

to Countesthorpe Academy

This is a new chapter in your child's educational journey and we are delighted that you have chosen Countesthorpe Academy.

Here at Countesthorpe Academy with everything we do, we aim for everyone in our school community to 'be the best they can be'.

At Countesthorpe Academy, we are all learners. We practise and embed our core values of showing respect, developing resilience and achieving success.

We do this through:

- Providing high quality learning opportunities
- Being a research informed school
- Delivering real life/innovative curriculum
- Our high expectations
- Being aspirational for our community
- Recognising success
- Developing leadership

This Academy is about improving the prospects of your child. We want to develop capable, resilient, independent young people. This involves support and challenge, celebrating successes and learning how to deal with disappointments.

We cannot achieve this alone. We need your support.

This booklet will allow you to understand how we work as a Academy. How we need you to work with us to make sure that life runs smoothly in our learning community, to ensure your child leaves with the best possible exam results having been exposed to a broad range of educational experiences.

"At Countesthorpe Academy we expect our students to work hard, be organised and reach their individual potential.

The following information is designed to help us work in partnership in order to help your child be the best they can be."





Timings of the Academy day

Registration begins at 8:45am. Students will need to be in their tutor rooms at this time.

The Academy's lessons end at 3:10pm, and buses leave the Academy site at 3:20pm. There are a number of after school activities that run until 4:20pm

Break and Lunchtime

Students can choose to bring a packed lunch or buy a hot cooked meal.

Food is available in each year group area at break and at lunchtime.

Students are required to stay on the Academy Campus at break and lunchtime.

A lunchtime pass needs to be requested, **in writing**, from the Pastoral Office, if your child is to have lunch at home.

Transport and Twilight Buses

Please refer to our website for more information.

A twilight bus is run by the Academy to support students staying for after school activities throughout the year:

Tuesday Bus Arrives 4:00pm - Bus Departs 4:15pm
 Wednesday Bus Arrives 4:00pm - Bus Departs 4:15pm

Equipment

Students must be provided with:

2 black pens (required for exams)	Clear pencil case (required for exams)
2 purple pens	2 different coloured highlighters
Pencil & Sharpener	Coloured pens or pencils
Eraser	Ruler
Pair of compasses	Scientific calculator
Earphones	Protractor
Safety Scissors	Glue Stick

A Student Planner (provided by Countesthorpe Academy – a replacement costs £2.00). This is an organisational tool and a way of communicating between home and school. It is not a Homework Diary – See the homework section for more details.

Additional Subject Specific Equipment

Some materials can be ordered via **ParentPay.com**. Subject teachers will communicate this to students at the appropriate time. Some subjects may involve some additional costs, such as buying material for Textiles or ingredients for Food Technology.

Homework

Homework is essential to success in exams and education in general and all students at Countesthorpe Academy are expected to complete homework. Committing to memory work which has been taught in lessons, exam and assessment practice, working to deadlines and time management are developed through completing homework.

Satchel One is an online homework diary to help your child and you keep track of homework. Satchel One will allow you and your child to see the details of their

homework and deadlines set.

Homework Club

Is open and supervised by Teaching Assistants 3:00pm – 4:00pm every Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Academy Library

Is open and supervised from 8:20am - 3:30pm every day for quiet, focused study.

Students have access to books, DVDs, newspapers, journals, computers and printers. This is a suitable place for students to complete homework if needed.

Student ID Cards

When a child starts at the Academy, students will be issued with an ID card and lanyard, which **should be worn at all times** and last them until they leave the Academy.

The ID card will allow students to:

- · Enter the building
- · Pay for school lunches
- Book out library resources
- Use photocopiers

Students must wear their ID card and lanyard at all times; it is part of their uniform and is important for safeguarding reasons.

Replacement cards and/or lanyards can be purchased online through **ParentPay.com** (see section in handbook).



Uniform information

Information regarding uniform can be found on our website at https://www.clcc.ccademy/uniform-information/

ITEM	NOTES	UNIFORM SUPPLIER
Blazer	Countesthorpe Academy Black Blazer will be worn by all students in year 7-10. Students in year 11 can purchase a school blazer if desired. Blazers should be worn at all times unless permission given by staff to remove them.	~
Jumper (optional)	Plain black V neck jumper with Academy logo will be worn by students in year 11. Plain black V neck jumper with Academy logo can be purchased by students in year 7–10 as an extra layer under their blazer in colder weather. Hoody jumpers are not permitted and should not be worn.	•
Trousers	Plain grey tailored trousers. ¹	
Shorts	Tailored grey shorts.	
Skirt	Plain grey knee length box pleated skirt with CA logo purchased from the school supplier. ²	~
Shirt	the neck, long enough to be tucked in at all times.	
Tie		
Socks	Plain grey or black socks. Over the knee socks should not be worn.	
Tights	Plain black tights or plain natural skin tone.	
Shoes	These should be plain, all black (any logo must also be black), low heeled shoes or trainers which are suitable for Academy. ⁴ Shoe laces should be black.	

We do not allow; jeans, denim trousers, jeggings, leggings, trousers which are tight to the thigh, calf, or leg, trousers that do not cover the ankle, cords.

ITEM	NOTES
Boots	Flat boots can be worn. Trousers should not be tucked in boots. Boots should be plain black including any lace up detail. No UGG boot style boots should be worn.
Coats	Students will need an additional (preferably warm and waterproof) coat for the colder months especially given that the Academy is split across two sites. Coats must not be worn in lessons. A hoody jumper is not permitted to be used as a coat.
Jewellery	Studded earrings only and a watch. A clear retainer can be worn in nose piercings no other piercings are allowed. Earlobe stretchers and bars are NOT permitted. Religious jewellery can be worn but must be under clothing.
Hair & Makeup	Make up must be discreet and kept to a minimum, hair colour should be in the range of natural hair colouring. No extreme hairstyles or colours. No false nails/nail extensions. Nails should be short for health and safety. False glued on eye lashes are not permitted. Eyelashes should be a natural length and thickness.
Bags	Each student will be expected to carry an appropriate bag for school which can hold books and equipment. No small handbag or backpacks type bags. This should be able to hold at minimum an A4 folder / workbook.
Lanyard	Students must wear their lanyard and ID card at all times around their neck. (Lanyard, ID card and Hold.)

The Academy Leadership's Team decision about acceptable uniform is final. All students are expected to wear kit as described for PE and Dance lessons.





² We do not allow the following skirts; skater skirts, jersey/lycra skirts, denim skirts, tight skirts, skirts with a pattern.

³ Polo shirts are not allowed. Shirts are to be worn with a tie at all times.

⁴ The following shoes are not allowed; pumps, ballet style shoes, shoes with stiletto heels, shoes with any marking or logo, sling back or backless shoes.

ITEM	NOTES	UNIFORM SUPPLIER
Black T-shirt	Black round neck t-shirt.	
Training Top	Long sleeved black training top with CA logo.	~
Black Shorts		
Black Socks		
Black Training Bottoms	Black leggings or tracksuit bottoms.	Optional
Trainers	A change of shoes from their regular school shoes for PE lessons.	

Students can opt to buy CA tracksuit bottoms or alternatively wear their own navy or black tracksuit bottoms. Black or navy sports leggings can be worn. Students must bring a change of footwear for PE whether that is a pair of football boots for outdoor lessons or a spare pair of clean trainers.

Please label uniform and PE kit to help with returning lost property to its rightful owner.

Aerosol deodorants/perfumes or air fresheners are not allowed in school. If a deodorant is required a roll-on version is acceptable.

If for any reason your child does not have their kit or has a medical note explaining that they are unable to take part in the lesson, we are unable to make alternative provision. Our policy is similar to most secondary schools in that pupils who are not able to do PE are expected to change into their PE kit and join the PE group listening to the theory aspects and helping with duties as instructed by the teacher. This may be in the form of refereeing, coaching or analysing performance. The same policy applies for both indoor and outdoor lessons. It is therefore important that they have a sports waterproof coat and warm clothing to observe the lesson if they are outdoors.

If your child has a medical reason for not participating practically in a PE lesson, please supply a note to their PE teacher, through your child, on the day of their PE lesson.

We want our students to look and feel smart and be proud of the community to which they belong. It is expected that students will dress smartly and take pride in how they look. In coming to the Academy, parents and carers agree to support our policy in ensuring your child is correctly dressed.

How to order a School Uniform

School uniform can be purchased from:

Schoolwear Solutions, 64 London Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5DH 0116 2160665 Uniform is available to purchase online or in the Schoolwear Solutions shop.

Only the items with logos will need to be purchased from the listed supplier. Anything else can be purchased from other stores as long as they are within the policy. However, you do have the option to purchase them all from our supplier should you choose to do so.

Attendance

Our target for attendance is 100%. We expect students to be punctual.

Attendance above 96% is considered good and will entitle your child to be invited to recognition events.

If your child is going to be absent from the Academy for any reason, please contact our Attendance Officer. If your child is absent during registration and we have not received an explanation you may expect to be contacted by text in the interests of safeguarding.

Attendance concerns and patterns will be investigated and action taken in line with Academy procedure.

Please do not accept requests to leave the Academy directly from your child. This is against Academy procedure. If your child is ill and needs to be collected, we will contact you.

- Absence due to illness needs to be phoned through to the switchboard or emailed by 9.00am 0116 277 1555 and choose the relevant option or attendance@countesthorpe.org.uk (please do not email the admin address to report an absence).
- Routine dental or medical appointments need to be made outside the Academy day.
- Appointments involving consultants or other specialists are exceptions to this.

Holidays

Holidays in term time **cannot** be authorised (due to instructions from the Government).

In exceptional circumstances, families may wish to apply for leave and should apply in writing to the Headteacher; each request will be considered individually.

The Pastoral System and settling in

In addition to their year group, students will be placed into one of the six Houses in the Academy. Houses are made up of students from years 7–13. Each child will be in a tutor group made up only of children in the same year. A House system helps to foster a sense of community, belonging, engagement and support. There will be opportunities for inter-house competitions, special house events, trips and student responsibilities.

All students have access to support through their tutors and Heads of House, Pastoral Head of Year and the five subject teachers they see each day.

Recognition

Student achievement is celebrated throughout the year. Students accumulate Value and House Points which contribute to individual and group recognition and success.

We recognise students who meet our expectations, work hard and 'do the right thing'. Some of the ways we recognise students are:

- Postcards
- Jump the Queue Vouchers
- Certificates
- Awards Evening

- Leavers Parties and Prom Nights
- Recognition Trips
- Recognition Events
- · Learner of the Week

Recognition Events

We aim to arrange Recognition Events once a term. Students receive an invitation to the Recognition Event based on their attendance and conduct.

Students who attend Recognition Events will:

- Have attendance of 96% (this is a government set target the equivalent of two weeks absence from Academy)*
- Have no unauthorised absence or holiday
- Have a behaviour record which demonstrates a positive contribution to the Academy and meeting expectations in lessons

Three Recognition Events are held each year, to allow those students who make significant positive change or progress in attitude, behaviour and attendance to be recognised. Students who are in danger of not receiving an invitation to a Recognition Event will be informed with enough to time to change their conduct and attendance to make a difference. The exception to this is unauthorised holiday.

* The Academy reserves the right to take into consideration authorised absence due to medical issues, significant illness or compassionate leave awarded at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Money & Personal Electronic Equipment (Mobile Phones, iPods, Smart Watches etc.)

Mobile phones and earphones are **NOT** allowed during 8:20am and 3pm. Students who bring in these items must ensure that they are switched off and kept in their bags.

Smart watches are **NOT** allowed to be worn in the Academy.

Using a device when **NOT** allowed will result in confiscation of the device which will be returned in accordance with school policy.

Under no circumstances can the Academy accept liability for any devices of this nature or cash; this includes accidental damage or theft.

Personal Belongings and Bicycles

All personal property is brought in at the student's own risk. Please take reasonable precautions to look after property such as using a bike lock for your child's bike or scooter.

May we take this opportunity to remind parents and students that we recommend the use of cycle paths and cycle helmets and suggest that students have passed their Cycling Proficiency Test if they are cycling to Academy.

Cycling on paths and pavements on the Academy site is not allowed.

The Academy cannot accept liability for personal belongings, including items of clothing.

Student Roles and Responsibilities

The Academy is committed to providing students with opportunities for leadership and to take on responsibility to prepare them for the world and the independence of adult life. There is a School Council to represent the views of the students. We encourage and expect students to contribute to Academy life through participating in and leading House activities. As students move through their learning journey, there are a range of leadership opportunities for them.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The Academy is committed to providing opportunities for students beyond the academic curriculum.

For those students who attend twilight activities and normally catch the Academy bus, a late bus service is provided on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Students may also participate in activities such as PE, Music, Dance and Drama, Craft and The Duke of Edinburgh scheme.



ParentPay.com

This is a secure, cashless payment system which the Academy uses and is our preferred method of payment. The site will:

- Enable you to pay for Academy meals and other items such as trips and resources.
- Give you a history of all the payments you have made.
- Allow you to create a single account login across all your children that attend a school that uses ParentPay.
- Show you all items available for payment relevant to each of your children.
- Email a receipt of your payment to the email address you register.
- Offer you the ability to set automated email/SMS payment reminders.

Login details are sent as part of the Induction Pack. If you have not received login details, have misplaced them or need assistance logging in, please contact the Academy at admin@countesthorpe.org.uk.

Payments for trips

A range of trips are organised in the Academy year. Where costs are incurred, payments are requested to help meet these, by making a voluntary contribution. Parents who have registered their child for free school meals with the Leicestershire County Council can be considered for a subsidy towards the costs of educational visits and resources from The Pupil Premium Grant. Parents will need to apply for financial assistance.

When the opportunity arises for your child to participate in a trip, you will receive a letter with an outline of the travel arrangements and costs. Permission slips need to be completed and returned to the Academy by parents/carers giving contact details, special dietary requirements where appropriate and medical information.

Trips abroad have included skiing to Saalbach in Austria, France and Belgium. Trips at home have included visits to Cadbury's World, Land Rover, London, Stratford-upon-Avon, the Clothes Show and theatre trips.

Payments for trips, books, Academy meals etc. can be made via **ParentPay.com** (please see our website for details).

Disadvantaged Students

Those eligible for additional funding

You may be aware that the Government allocates additional funding to schools in the form of The Pupil Premium Grant. This grant is available to a range of students including:

- Students who have been adopted from care/left care.
- Those registered for free school meals (FSM).
- Students whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces.
- · Students under the care of the Local Authority.

If you feel you may be eligible for this please visit www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals where you will be given guidance and an opportunity to check if your child is eligible for free school meals.

If your child is eligible, the Academy will contact you directly explaining how you may access financial support for items such as:

- Academy approved revision and text books (supplied through the Academy).
- · Official Academy PE kit.
- · Official Academy Hair and Beauty tunics.
- · Construction boots and overalls (supplied through the Academy).
- Art equipment (supplied through the Academy).
- Maths equipment (supplied through the Academy).
- Educational trips (either part or fully funded as indicated on the letter sent to parents about the trip).

Who is eligible?

Children adopted from care/have left care

The Government will provide funding for children adopted from care and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30th December 2005. The funding also includes children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14th October 1991.

If your child matches this category please contact the Academy to let us know as soon as possible as this will allow us to claim The Pupil Premium Grant for your child. The Academy will deal with the information in a sensitive manner and all information will remain confidential.

Free School Meals

Your child will be eligible for The Pupil Premium Grant if they are in receipt of free school meals or have received them in the last six years.

Students whose parents are currently serving in the Armed Forces

If you or your partner are currently serving in the Armed Forces, Personnel Category 1 or 2, please contact the Academy to let us know as soon as possible as this will allow us to claim The Pupil Premium Grant for your child.

If you need support in this please contact Leicestershire County Council on **0116 3056588** or **0116 305 7093** or visit their website at:

www.leics.gov.uk/free_school_lunches

Please note that by registering your child for The Pupil Premium Grant or applying for free school meals, you will **not affect any benefits you currently receive**.

Contacting Us

If you have concerns or questions during your child's time with us please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The diagram shows the best way of doing this to get a fast and detailed response.

When contacting the Academy please make sure you are ready to give us the following information to speed up the process of getting the message to the correct person:

- Your name and title and relationship to your child¹.
- · Your child's name and tutor group.
- A brief description of the nature of your query.
- Clearly state if this is a subject or pastoral/welfare issue.

Giving this information allows us to direct your contact appropriately as quickly as possible. If this information is not given, this may lead to a delay in us responding.

Main Reception

Your first port of call is reception	irst port of call is reception who will put you in touch with the right person.		
CREW Leader Your child's Form Tutor is the person to talk to about general questions. Concerns about progress in more than on subject. Welfare. Home or medical situations which may impact on progress, attendance or punctuality.	Attendance Officer If your child is absent for any reason you will need to contact our Attendance Officer.	Subject Teacher If you have questions or concerns about a specific subject your child is studying you can contact their Subject Teacher.	
Head of Year If an issue cannot be resolved by the Form Tutor then a Head of Year may intervene.		Head of Faculty If an issue cannot be resolved by the Subject Teacher then a Head of Faculty may intervene.	

Please note that we will only contact someone whose details are on and match those on our system.

Please be aware that effective telephone communication can sometimes be problematic in schools, as most staff do not have a direct phone line and teachers are often teaching full time, as well as working with students at lunchtime or after school. Additionally, some members of staff work part-time so may not be in the Academy every day. Whilst it may be frustrating when a message elicits no immediate reply, in reality, there has probably been no opportunity for the member of staff to reach a telephone to return a call.

If parents wish to meet with a member of staff, this must be arranged by appointment.

Staff may be contacted by letter, email or phone call. We will endeavour to meet the following timescales:

- Letters will receive either a verbal response within 2 working days or a written response within 10 working days.
- · Concerns raised by phone will be acknowledged within 2 working days.
- Emails will receive an email response within 2 working days.

Those sent at weekends may not be dealt with until the following working week, and emails sent in holidays will probably elicit no reply until term-time and an email will be sent to acknowledge receipt.

• Social Media received will be responded to within 2 working days.

Those sent at weekends may not be dealt with until the following working week, and messages sent in holidays will probably elicit no reply until term-time and a message will be sent to acknowledge receipt.



Contacting You

It is essential that we have up to date contact details for you. This is for the health and safety of your child. It is essential for the safety of your child that we have up-to-date contact details.

If you have supplied an email address or mobile phone number, we will use it. Please make sure it is an email account or mobile phone that you check regularly.

Useful Contacts

Countesthorpe Community Academy

Main switchboard (0116) 277 1555
Website countesthorpe.org.uk
Admin Email admin@countesthorpe.org.uk
Absence Reporting Email attendance@countesthorpe.org.uk

Leicestershire County Council

Admissions (Leicestershire County Council)	(0116) 305 6684
Bus Passes (Leicestershire County Council)	(0116) 305 0002
Free School Meals Service (Leicestershire County Council)	(0116) 305 6588

Leicester City Council

Admissions (Leicester City Council)	(0116) 454 1009
Education Services (Leicester City Council)	(0116) 454 1009
Free School Meals Service (Leicester City Council)	(0116) 454 1009







Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement

Countesthorpe Academy recognises the importance of ICT in education and the needs of students to access the computing facilities. So that students can use our range of ICT facilities, we require all students to sign that they agree to these statements before they receive their username and password. This agreement also covers use of the Internet and email. These rules will keep everyone safe and help us to be fair to others.

- I will only use the school's computers for appropriate school activities and learning and am aware that the school can monitor my internet use.
- 2. I will not bring files into school that can harm the school network or be used to circumvent Academy security tools.
- 3. I will only edit or delete my own files and not view, or change, other people's files or user areas without their permission.
- 4. I will keep my logins, IDs and passwords secret and change my password regularly.
- 5. I will use the Internet responsibly and will not visit web sites that are inappropriate for the school or my key stage.
- 6. I will only e-mail or contact people I know, or those approved as part of learning activities.
- 7. The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible.

 All messages I send reflect on me and the school.
- 8. I will be careful when opening files and attachments, checking for viruses etc. If I am unsure I will never open a file.
- I will not give my personal information that could be used to identify me, my family or my friends on any online space, unless a trusted adult has given permission or reviewed the site.
- 10. I will never arrange to meet someone I have only ever previously met on the Internet or by email or in a chat room, unless I take a trusted adult with me.
- 11. If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message that makes me feel uncomfortable, I will not respond to it but I will save it and talk to a trusted adult.
- 12. I am aware that some websites, games and social networks have age restrictions and I should respect this.
- 13. I am aware that my online activity at all times should not upset or hurt other people and that I should not put myself at risk.
- 14. I will receive an allocation of printer credits every half term from the Academy. Additional credits can be bought via ParentPay.com
- 15. I will pay for malicious damage I cause to ICT equipment and systems.
- If I connect my own device to the Academy network I agree that the same rules above will apply.

Students failing to follow these guidelines can expect an escalating scale of penalties, including permanent loss of access regardless of the study requirements of the student.

Home School Agreement Student's Commitment

I fully commit to uphold the Academy's values of Respect, Resilience and Success in the following ways:

- I will come to school every day on time, unless my parents/carers inform the school
 of an authorised reason for absence.
- I will always bring the right books and equipment needed for every lesson including tutor time.
- I will always work, think, and behave in the best way I know how, and I will do
 whatever it takes to enable me and my fellow students to learn. This also means
 that I will complete all my homework on time; I will ask my teachers if I have a
 problem with the homework.
- · I will raise my hand and ask questions in class if I do not understand something.
- I will always make myself available to teachers and other school staff upon request, and address any concerns they may have. If I make a mistake, I will tell the truth to school staff and accept responsibility for my actions.
- I am responsible for my own behaviour, and I will follow the directions of all members of staff.
- I will accept and follow the school's behaviour policy.
- I will always behave so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the school. This also means that I will always listen to my peers and members of staff and give everyone my respect.
- · I will behave responsibly when travelling to and from school and when on school visits.
- I will follow the school uniform policy.
- I will follow the school's anti-bullving policy.
- I will respect and care for the school environment and the local area.
 I will not drop litter or damage property through graffiti or vandalism.
- I will endeavour to be the best I can be in all aspects of school life.





Parents' / Carers' Commitment

I/We fully commit to helping my child achieve excellence through:

- Supporting the school's aims, ethos and values.
- Ensuring that my child attends school each day, on time and properly equipped.
- Always helping my child in the best way I know how and I will do whatever it takes for him/her to learn.
- Monitoring my child's homework and signing the student planner on a weekly basis.
- Supporting opportunities for homework and providing an appropriate environment for study.
- Making myself available to my child and the school, and address any concerns they may have, attending parents' evenings, information meetings and supporting other school events.
- Supporting the school's behaviour policy, including after school detentions.
- Supporting the school's uniform policy.
- Informing the school of issues that may affect my child's school performance.
- Allowing relevant confidential information to be discussed by appropriate agencies in support programmes for my child.
- Treating staff and students with respect.

I understand that my child must follow the school's rules and the direction of its staff so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals.





School's Commitment

We fully commit to help students achieve excellence in the following ways:

- We will teach in the best way we know how and we will do whatever it takes to enable students to learn.
- We will make ourselves available to students and parents, and address any concerns they may have.
- · We will promote a safe caring environment.
- We will protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the school.
- We will provide a balanced curriculum that meets, wherever possible, the individual needs of the student.
- We will challenge all students to achieve their highest standard of work and behaviour.
- We will encourage success and recognise effort and achievement.
- We will set, assess and monitor homework, providing relevant feedback.
- We will provide information to parents/carers about their child's progress, attainment and attendance.
- We will provide clear information advice and guidance to support future learning choices and career pathways.
- We will provide extra-curricular and personal development opportunities for all.
- We will work in partnership with you to enable your child to achieve their potential.
- We will treat parents/carers and students with courtesy and respect.



Winchester Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire, LE8 5PR

0116 2771555

admin@countesthorpe.org.uk countesthorpe.org.uk

Term time opening hours

Mon to Thurs 08:00 to 16:30 Friday 08:00 to 16:00

Countesthorpe Academy is part of the **LiFE Multi Academy Trust**



Respect / Resilience / Success