



23.04.2026

Subject: Working Together: An Update on Our Progress at Yate Academy

Dear Families,

Welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed a restful Easter break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with your children. We were thrilled to see our students return on Tuesday, refreshed and ready to learn; it has been wonderful to hear their stories of relaxation and adventure from over the holiday.

In February, I wrote to you following our Parent Forum on uniform to outline the steps we were taking based on your feedback. Building on the success of that session, we held a further forum on 19th March focused on **Student Wellbeing**. I am writing today to share the progress we have made and the next steps we are taking as a direct result of those conversations.

At Yate Academy, we believe a school flourishes best when it works in true partnership with families. Below, I have outlined the areas where your voices are affecting positive change.

School Spirit: Celebrating Our Community

You said: You value the increased focus on "fun" and enrichment, noting that your children are feeling the benefits.

- **Bringing the Joy:** We are committed to maintaining our three-times-weekly "fun activities," with our popular Mega May events scheduled for this term.
- **Rewarding Dedication:** We are incredibly proud of our students' hard work. To celebrate this, we will continue our whole-school reward events, such as the inflatables in the sports hall and our end-of-term non-uniform days.
- **Friends of Yate Academy:** We are working closely with our parent-led association to raise funds for student social spaces. We are currently planning to purchase new equipment for break and lunchtimes, including board games and table tennis tables. Watch this space!

Communication

You said: Sometimes a lack of "joined-up" communication can get in the way of the great work happening in school.

It is clear that, at times, a lack of "joined-up" communication can hinder the excellent work taking place across the school. I want to reassure you that improving this is a primary focus for us; we recognise that clear, consistent dialogue must be a priority moving forward.

We are currently in the process of developing a system designed to ensure all parents receive timely and helpful responses to their enquiries. While I had hoped to share the full details of this solution with you today, it is essential that we get this right. To ensure the new system is effective for everyone, we are currently working alongside external partners to refine our approach.

As an immediate step following our meeting, we invited an external communications specialist into school to deliver bespoke training to both the Senior Leadership and Pastoral teams, focusing on the standards of professional and effective communication.

Furthermore, we are currently creating a 'Who's Who' section of our website. This will provide a clear directory so that you always know exactly whom to contact, for what reason, and when. I look forward to writing to you again in the coming weeks with a full update on these improvements.

Homework: Support, Not Stress

You said: *Homework can sometimes be a source of anxiety, particularly if the content feels unfamiliar.*

While we believe homework is vital to the fantastic outcomes our students achieve, we never want it to feel overwhelming. To support our pupils, we provide:

- **Daily Support:** Miss Sharman (Associate Assistant Principal) hosts a daily lunch-time homework club. There is subject specific support available on the following days:
Monday - MFL
Tuesday - Maths, MFL
Wednesday - Maths
Thursday - Science
Our SEND Team also offers a daily homework club after school in learning support.
- **Specialist "Study Support":** If a student misses a homework deadline, our after-school sessions are staffed by subject specialists. This ensures that instead of just "doing time," the student receives the expert help they need to bridge any gaps in their learning.
- **Digital Access:** If technology at home is a barrier, please let us know. We are committed to ensuring every child has the tools they need to succeed.

The Morning Greeting & Line-ups

You said: *Some students felt anxious about the focus on appearance during line-ups.*

We have listened carefully and are evolving our morning routine:

- **From "Roll Call" to "Morning Greeting":** We are renaming and reframing this time. The focus is shifting to positive communication skills. We will be using the **STEPS** method to teach students how to interact confidently and politely. Miss Beckett will share a video explaining this shortly.
- **Purpose & Pace:** We use line-ups to help students transition from the "high energy" of break time to the "focused calm" of the classroom. However, we have decided to speed these up. They will now feature one simple, positive message before students head to class.
- **Celebrating Success:** We want to start the day with joy. Students celebrating their birthday will receive a Golden Tie, which includes a free tray bake and a special privilege for them and a friend to move to the front of the lunch queue. In addition, a "Student shout out" will be presented in each year group, to celebrate the 99.9% of students who "get it right" every single day.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

You said: *You weren't always sure what help was available for children struggling with their mental health.*

- **A Clear Guide:** Miss Beckett (Deputy Principal) will be writing to you soon with a clear map of our wellbeing provision and how to access it.

Next Steps

Our next parent forum will take place on **Tuesday 8th July in 30 minute slots between 3:30 - 6:30pm**. The forum will focus on **Supporting Students with SEND**. If you would like to attend please email my PA Stephanie Lawrence at slawrence@yateacademy.co.uk with your preferred time slot, your name and your child's name. The deadline to register for this forum is **Friday June 26th**.

I am aware that several parents raised individual queries regarding their own children during the forum. We were glad to assist with these privately, and as I'm sure you understand, these remain confidential.

Thank you for your honesty, your time, and your continued support. It is helping us see the school through your eyes and ensuring that Yate Academy is a place where every child feels seen, supported, and challenged.

Yours sincerely,



Eddie Rakshi
Headteacher
Yate Academy