



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of our first term at Acer Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your support during what has been an incredibly exciting—yet naturally challenging—period as we establish our brand-new school. As with any new provision, there have been teething problems, and your patience, understanding and partnership have been truly invaluable as we have navigated these early stages together.

Thank you in particular for your flexibility and support with the operational changes we introduced this term. Adjusting the length of the school day and reorganising class groupings were essential steps in shaping a structure that best meets the needs of our pupils. Your willingness to work with us has enabled us to continue developing Acer Academy into a place where children feel safe, supported and able to thrive.

To support the opening of Acer Academy, we have strengthened our senior leadership team by bringing in SEMH and SEND specialists who understand the diverse and complex needs of our cohort. Gwyn Owen joins us as Acting Headteacher from Arbour Academy, one of our trust's specialist SEMH provisions, and Jack Ellis takes on the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher from Oakwood Academy, our Ofsted-rated Outstanding specialist SEND provision. Their combined experience, expertise and passion are already having a significant positive impact on pupils' relationships, engagement and overall school experience.

We are also fortunate to be supported by our Kings Academy Trust Directors for Inclusion and Curriculum, Michelle Navin and Amanda Ellis. Their guidance and expertise are helping to drive the school forward at pace, ensuring we remain sharply focused on meeting the needs of our learners.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the next phase of development for Acer Academy. Over the coming year, we will continue to refine and strengthen our curriculum, with a particular emphasis on personal development and fostering a lasting love of learning in our young people. We are planning an exciting programme of trips and visits designed to broaden pupils' experiences and help them connect their learning to the wider world.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful and peaceful Christmas!



Autumn Term Update

Acting Head of School: Gwyn Owen

As we step into the autumn term, I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Acting Head of School at ACER Academy. It is a privilege to take on this role within such a vibrant, dedicated, and supportive community. Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of getting to know more of our pupils, families, and staff, and I am continually impressed by the enthusiasm and kindness that define our school. One particular highlight this term has been the successful implementation of our new grading system. Staff and pupils alike have embraced it with real positivity. We are already seeing the benefit, greater clarity around progress, increased motivation, and a shared understanding of expectations. Our pupils have bought into the system wholeheartedly, and their commitment is reflected in the high standard of work and engagement across the academy.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting year in store. As part of our commitment to enriching learning beyond the classroom, we are currently planning a series of off-site trips for the summer term. These will include visits to local museums, theatre productions, and nearby parks—experiences designed to ignite curiosity, build confidence, and broaden our pupils' understanding of the world around them. More information will be shared in due course, but we are very much looking forward to offering these valuable opportunities to all our students.

Thank you for your continued support. I am excited to work alongside you as we guide our pupils through a successful and inspiring year at ACER Academy.

We will also be increasing our focus on life skills, independence and preparation for adulthood, ensuring our learners develop the practical skills and confidence they need beyond school. Alongside this, we are introducing Forest School and wider outdoor learning programmes, offering pupils rich opportunities to build resilience, teamwork and problem-solving skills in a natural environment.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to all that we will achieve together as Acer Academy continues to grow, develop and thrive.



Merry Christmas



Meet the Acer Team:



Lindsay Regan
Executive Headteacher



Michelle Navin
Director of Inclusion KAT



Amanda Ellis
Director of Education KAT



Gwyn Owen
Acting Head of School



Jack Ellis
Acting Deputy Head



Natalie Spencer
Assistant Headteacher/
SENDCO



Sophie Booth
Inclusion Manager



Nic Cass
Learning Mentor



Tommy Nam
Learning Mentor



David Montaya
School counsellor



Rayneace Paige
Class teacher



Jenny Brierley
Class teacher



Kayliegh Thompson
Class teacher



Jini McKenzie
Class teacher



Aiden Siddall
Support Staff



Krissy Kennedy
Support Staff



Ellis Crougton
Support staff



New parents Open Evening



Acer Academy held its first Open Evening on Tuesday 9th December for parents and carers interested in learning more about what Acer Academy can offer their young people. The event was very well attended and we were pleased to welcome colleagues from Salford SEN department as well as representatives from the Salford Parent Carer Forum. Feedback from those who visited was overwhelmingly positive, including the comment: "Thanks to Kings Academy Trust for inviting us. It was great to see the school and how much thought had gone into support for your pupils."

We are also looking forward to welcoming parents and carers of our current pupils to our upcoming Parents' Evening, which is planned for 14th January 2026.

Autumn Term SEND update:

Assistant Head teacher/ SENDCo - Natalie Spencer

This term, we have been getting to know our pupils really well by completing baseline assessments and reviewing their learning, sensory and emotional needs. This has helped us make sure every child has the right support in place.

We are updating sensory plans, adding more calming and regulation tools to classrooms, and building predictable routines to help pupils feel safe and settled. Staff are also using a clear cycle of "assess, plan, do, review" so we can see what works best for each child and adjust support quickly where needed.

Over the next term, we will continue developing our sensory spaces and begin small intervention groups to help pupils with specific skills.

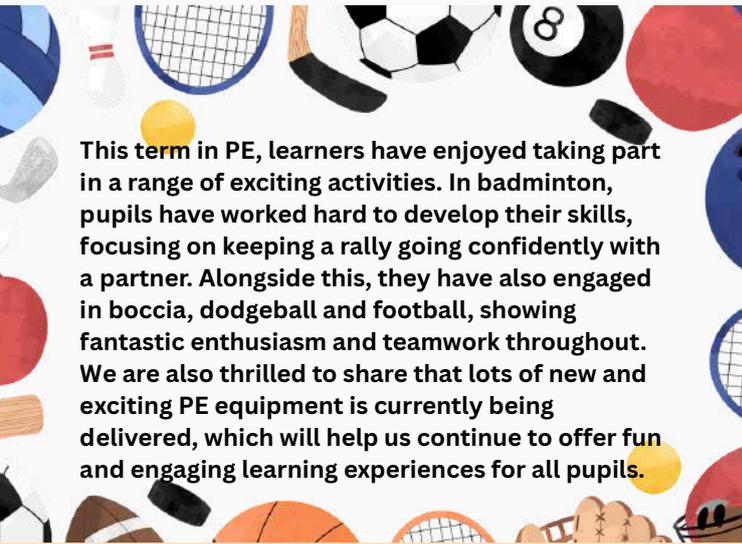
Thank you for your ongoing support as we grow and strengthen our provision in only our second term as a new school.



In the news...



PE activities



This term in PE, learners have enjoyed taking part in a range of exciting activities. In badminton, pupils have worked hard to develop their skills, focusing on keeping a rally going confidently with a partner. Alongside this, they have also engaged in boccia, dodgeball and football, showing fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork throughout. We are also thrilled to share that lots of new and exciting PE equipment is currently being delivered, which will help us continue to offer fun and engaging learning experiences for all pupils.

Christmas card competition

This festive season, Acer Academy held a Christmas Card Competition, and we were delighted with the creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown by our pupils. We received a wonderful range of designs, making the judging extremely difficult.

We are proud to announce the winners:

1st Prize: Evelyn

2nd Prize: JJ

3rd Prize: Jai Lee



Evelyn's fantastic winning design has been chosen as our official Acer Christmas card and is being sent to all parents and carers, as well as the local authority. It is a brilliant achievement and a real celebration of pupil creativity.

Well done, Evelyn, on your outstanding winning design – and congratulations to JJ and Jai Lee for their excellent entries. We are very proud of all the pupils who took part.

Welcome to Henry!



Henry the school therapy dog has successfully worked in Arbour and Kassia academies for the past 6 years since he was 12 weeks old.

We are excited to announce that Henry will be joining Acer academy to support children who benefit from animal therapy. Henry will be joining us at Acer Academy in the new year and is very excited to meet our young people at Acer.

Henry is a fully trained therapy dog. His breeding (cockapoo) means his coat is hypoallergenic making him suitable for working with children with allergies however full communication and a consent form will be sent to parents prior to Henry working directly with children.



On Friday 12th December, Acer Academy was filled with festive cheer as pupils enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Dinner Day.

The children tucked into a delicious traditional meal of turkey with all the trimmings, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the special occasion together.

The atmosphere was warm and celebratory, with lots of smiles, festive jumpers and happy conversations around the table. A big thank you to everyone involved in making the day so special – it was a fantastic way to celebrate the festive season and create happy memories for our pupils.

Christmas Dinner Day at Acer



In other News...



Governors visit

This term we were proud to welcome new governor Mrs Donna Brown to our SEMH Hub Local Governing Body. Mrs Brown visited us at Arbour and Acer Academies and was pleased to meet the children. Mrs Brown brings with her a wealth of experience in finance, she is also an author and has personal experience as a parent of a child with ASC. Mrs Brown will join our SEMH hub LGB from the Spring term.



Dates for the Diary:

- Open days for new learners took place on Tuesday 9th Dec. We will be hosting two more open day events in the Spring and Summer term for new parents.
- Parent/ Teacher meeting 14th January 26
- School closes for Christmas- Thursday 18th Dec
- School re-opens Mon 5th January 26
- School closes for Feb half term- Fri 13th Feb 26

School council - we need you!

Next term, we are excited to launch the Acer Academy Student Council. This will be a fantastic opportunity for learners to have their say on important school matters, share their ideas and help shape the future of our academy.



We will soon be recruiting pupils who are enthusiastic about representing their peers and making a positive contribution to school life.

If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to speak to a member of the pastoral team for more information.

VOTE!



We're here to help!

Meet our wonderful Admin Team Duo! Angela and Beth. Our admin team are always here to help just ask for them on reception and they'll do their very best to help you or get a message to someone who can!

New Website

Our New Website launched in September and we're delighted with it! We're working hard to update it with all the exciting things happening at Acer Academy. Head over to www.aceracademy.uk to take a look!



Acer Uniform!

"From January, learners will no longer be required to wear a full PE kit for their PE lessons. Instead, all students should bring or wear plain black trainers on the days they have PE."



We are delighted with how smart our learners look in their brand new Acer uniform. With the option of a school blazer or logo'd jumper it's great to see our learners representing our school with pride.

For those who struggle wearing these school uniform options a sensory uniform can be arranged. Please contact the pastoral team for more information.

