



End of Term Letter: Trinity 2026

June 2026

Dear parent or guardian,

I can hardly believe we have already reached the end of another term and with it another school year. The term ended on a high with pupils really enjoying the activities of our Fun Day, it's great to see young people and their teachers enjoying themselves after a busy academic year. I'd like to place on record my thanks to our staff for all they have done day-in-day-out to develop our young people and give them a meaningful school experience. I also want to express my thanks to all our parents for their help, support and feedback throughout the year. Finally, thanks are due to our pupils who are magnificent and are the reason we come to work!

This has been another busy term dominated by external and internal examinations. Apart from the obvious hard work there has been lots of pupil achievement and fun. Trips have taken place to Spain, the CCF have had a fantastic camp, the Junior SU enjoyed their weekend, and the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions were completed safely. There was success at athletics events across the island, and the preparatory department had a fun-filled trip to Dublin. The excitement isn't quite over yet, with what promises to be a fantastic rugby tour to Canada still to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw a number of things to your attention as we start to think about the 2026/27 academic year.

Speech Day

Holding Speech Day in the afternoon proved very popular in 2025 and so we plan to hold this highlight of the academic year at 2pm on the afternoon of Friday 18th September 2026. This is always a special occasion and in keeping with tradition it will be held in the beauty of St Mark's Parish Church, Armagh. The Chief Guest will be Old Armaghian, His Honour Judge Neil Rafferty, KC, the Recorder of Londonderry. All members of the school community are welcome to attend this event. We would particularly love to see our leavers return to celebrate their success with us before they move on into higher education or training.

Staff leavers, new staff, staff appointments

We are incredibly grateful for the service of all members of staff over the last year. In particular, we convey our best wishes to the following colleagues who are leaving us:

- Mr P du Toit who leaves after teaching in the mathematics department for four years;
- Mr S Karlsen who has been here for three years;
- Mrs M Dalzell who has taught in the mathematics department for the last year during Mrs Morrison's maternity leave;

- Mr JT Reid who taught chemistry during Mrs Lucas' maternity leave;
- Mr Spencer Lawson who has been our outstanding Sixth Form study supervisor since 1997;
- Mr Stephen McConnell who has been Bursar and Secretary to the Board of Governors since January 1995.

We convey our best wishes to Mrs N McCrory who will be away from school for much of next year on maternity leave.

We are always delighted to welcome new colleagues to school, we wish the following a happy and successful time as they start at RSA:

- Mrs Z Johnston who will join the mathematics department;
- Miss H Rountree who will teach English during the maternity leave of Mrs McCrory;
- Mrs H Francis who will become Bursar and Business Manager from September;
- Mr S McCrory will join the grounds & maintenance team.

A number of colleagues have been appointed to new roles and we wish them well:

- Miss K Boyle will be head of Key Stage 3 English during Mrs McCrory's maternity leave;
- Mrs Claire Chambers who will be the Personal Development Coordinator during Mrs McCrory's maternity leave;
- Mrs L King who will be the Sixth Form study supervisor.

Issue of results

Results dates are: **AS and A Level: Thursday 13 August**

GCSE: Thursday 20 August

Pupils awaiting AS and A Level results can access them remotely using the PIN they have been advised of previously.

A Level results: Results will be available in the Assembly Hall from 08:30 for pupils who want to call and of course anyone who requires advice or assistance should call and seek it as early in the day as possible. More specific information about the day will be posted as a reminder on social media in mid-August.

AS results: Results will be distributed in the Assembly Hall from 10:00. Year 13 pupils moving into Year 14 should call at school between 10:00 and 12:00 to confirm subject choices. Pupils who do not need to drop a subject and do not require assistance with an issue do not have to attend school. Pupils who are unable to call but who wish to drop a subject should telephone school with their information.

GCSE results: These can be collected at the Assembly Hall from 08:30, staff will be on hand to deal with any issues or queries. At this point pupils may also confirm subject choices.

Please be mindful that results days are very busy in school and results cannot ordinarily be given over the phone.

Start Dates & Phased Return

To ensure an orderly return and to facilitate some induction sessions at the start of the year there will be a phased return for pupils as detailed below. Full uniform should be worn.

Date	Year Group / Pupils	Time	Activities	Start venue
Monday 24 August	Year 11	09:00 - 12:30	orientation/ subject choices	Assembly Hall
Tuesday 25 August	Year 14	09:00 - 12:30 (Prefects until 15:15)	Induction Training	Form classes Assembly Hall
Wednesday 26 August	Year 8 (with selected prefects)	09:00 – 15:15	Induction	Assembly Hall
	Year 13	09:00 – 15:15	Induction	TBC
Thursday 27 August	All pupils	09:00 – 11:45	Form admin matters / assemblies	Form rooms
		11:45 – 15:15	Normal timetable	
Friday 28 September	All pupils	08:45 – 15:15	Normal timetable	Form rooms
Monday 31 August Bank holiday	<i>School closed</i>	<i>School closed</i>	<i>School closed</i>	<i>School closed</i>

All pupils are scheduled to be in school on Thursday 27 August. Notices will be posted at the entrances and on school social media advising pupils of the room they need to go to.

Bus Passes and Transport Claims

Home to school transport assistance must be applied for through the Education Authority (EA) online application process. Please note, the school is not involved in this process and has no involvement in the granting of transport assistance. Further information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply can be found on the Education Authority website at the following link: www.eani.org.uk/transport. Assistance with information about bus transport may be obtained from the Concourse Office.

Please note: Translink will not provide school transport services until Tuesday 01 September.

School uniform

As you know high standards of appearance, behaviour and attainment are expected of pupils of the Royal School. We are pleased that high standards are the norm, however we ask for your particular assistance in ensuring the following in line with the appearance code:

- **Skirts** – worn at the knee and not ‘rolled up’ at the waist. Please take time over the summer to make sure that skirts are compliant with school regulations, these have not changed in recent years and therefore we ask for continued cooperation
- **Hair** – tidy style, a natural colour with the avoidance of ‘extremes’ in style. Boys’ hair should not be worn lower than collar length. Boys should not have shaved heads or very short cuts e.g. ‘number 1’. There is an expectation that boys will be clean shaven.
- **Make up** – this must be discreet – if it can be easily seen its not discreet enough and pupils are liable to be asked to remove it.
- **Shoes** – shoes are expensive, and we do not want anyone to have to buy a second pair, therefore they should be plain black leather only, no trainers or canvas shoes and no white soles. Girls’ shoes must have low heels.
- **Piercings** – Nose and other visible body piercings and multiple ear piercings are not permitted. In the interests of health and safety dangle earrings or large hoops are not permitted.
- **Nail varnish** – permitted in subdued/neutral colours only.
- **Gel nails etc.** – these are not permitted.
- **Hoodies** – following the passage of new legislation the school will permit the wearing of a plain dark hoodie (without conspicuous branding). This may be worn under blazers to and from school and only as part of the full uniform and in periods of cold weather. They may not be worn in corridors unless as part of the PE uniform. We are pleased that each year a number of teams or trips produce tops with the school crest or team name as a memento of pupil involvement. However, please bear in mind that these tops are not part of the school uniform and may not be worn as such

Further information about appearance, including information about hairstyles, is contained in the Parents’ Handbook which is available on the school website.

School Shop

Items of uniform may be purchased from the school shop. Throughout the summer it will be open each day from 9am to 4:30pm (Closed for lunch 12:30pm to 1pm). The shop will be closed from Monday 13 – Friday 17 July (inclusive).

Lunchtime

- We will operate a service in the Dining Hall from 27 August;
- As you would expect vegetarian, gluten free and halal options (where requested) will be available;
- The biometric payment system will be used;
- We regret that it will not be possible to provide food to a pupil who has no credit on their account. It is vital that parents and pupils ensure they have sufficient credit in their

account to ensure they can avail of a healthy meal. An automatic top up facility is available on ParentPay which will ensure pupils have credit on their card.

And finally....

Every year I write that it takes a community to make a school successful and that remains true. On behalf of the Governors and all of our Staff I would like to thank you for your support in so many ways throughout the year, and to pay tribute to your children whose contribution to school life is highly valued. Whatever your plans this summer I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully



Graham Montgomery

Headmaster

