

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about two additional staff training (INSET) days that will take place across our Trust Schools' during the 2026/27 academic year:

Monday 22 February 2027

Monday 28 June 2027

On these dates, schools will be closed to pupils. We wanted to communicate these dates as early as possible so that families have plenty of time to make any necessary childcare and family arrangements if necessary.

These additional INSET days are being introduced in response to significant national developments in curriculum and assessment. The Government's **Curriculum and Assessment Review: Building a World-Class Curriculum for All** sets out substantial changes and expectations for schools, including strengthening curriculum design, ensuring greater coherence in what pupils learn, and preparing young people more effectively for the demands of an increasingly complex and changing world. Full details can be accessed [here](#).

Over the coming years, schools will be required to review, develop and refine their curricula to ensure they continue to provide the highest-quality education for all pupils and align with emerging national expectations.

Throughout the year, our staff will be undertaking curriculum development work within schools and across the Trust. However, given the scale and importance of these changes, we believe it is essential to dedicate additional professional development time to this work. These two days will allow teachers and leaders to work collaboratively on curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation, ensuring that our pupils continue to benefit from an ambitious, knowledge-rich and well-sequenced education.

We recognise that additional INSET days can create challenges for families and have therefore made this decision carefully.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are committed to ensuring that every child receives the very best educational experience and outcomes, and these additional training days will play an important part in achieving that goal.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Raikes CEO Southport Learning Trust

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