



**Yardleys  
School**

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

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December 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I write to you at the end of another extremely busy, but successful term. I have been very impressed by the many achievements of our students, both academically and also in their personal development. Even though the pandemic continues, our young people have demonstrated great resilience and positivity in approaching their studies and working hard to ensure they make the most of the opportunities afforded to them at Yardleys School.

Our teachers have been working hard this term to ensure that the curriculum is reviewed and gives opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve their potential. The curriculum is never a 'finished article', because we always need to keep evaluating it to ensure that it meets the needs of all students. There will be more information regarding this early next term.

We were delighted to have been awarded 'Gold' status from Investors in People, a nationally recognised award. This award is not given out very often and candidates have to demonstrate a deep and lasting commitment to their work place, focusing on ensuring all stakeholders are looked after and supported. The report cited many examples of the excellent relationships between staff and students and the caring ethos that permeates the school.

We have our whole school assessment week coming up shortly. Please note our expectations and procedures for both assessment week and homework which apply to all pupils from Year 7 - 11. Revising for, and sitting practice exams, as well as regular homework, are excellent ways to consolidate and improve student learning and I urge all parents and carers to support the school and their child with these activities. Year 10-11 have already started their exams and further information with regards to assessment week can be found below.

Thank you so much for the central part that you all play, as parents and carers, in supporting the school. It really does make a difference to know that we have a genuine partnership between home and school as we all strive to work towards ensuring our students fulfil their potential.

Please do have a wonderful break and a prosperous and peaceful start to the new year,

Yours sincerely

Neil Warner

Headteacher

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Prime Minister has announced temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant in the UK.

**Re-introduction of face coverings;** staff, students and visitors should now wear masks in communal areas of the school unless they are exempt. Students do not need to wear these when seated in lessons, but are welcome to do so if they wish.

**Testing;** we will provide all students with LFT tests. We ask students to continue to test twice weekly, including during the Christmas break and prior to returning to school. The government are also strongly encouraging students to be tested on school site in January prior to returning to lessons. We will share the arrangements for this when we have further details.

**Contact Tracing and Isolation;** the current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains. Your child should self-isolate and not attend school in the following situations:

1. Your child has one of the three recognised symptoms of Covid-19, i.e. a new, continuous cough; a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste (this means that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal). They should take a PCR test and not return to school until they have a negative result, or if they receive a positive result they should isolate for 10 full days from their symptoms.
2. NHS Track and Trace contact you or your child to inform your child that they need to self-isolate at home.
3. Your child returns a positive Lateral Flow Test. If your child does return a positive Lateral Flow Test, then they should take a PCR test within two days of returning the positive Lateral Flow Test. If the PCR test is negative, your child should return to school as soon as any Covid-19 symptoms have ended (this could be the same day as receiving the negative PCR test result if your child is not displaying symptoms), however, if your child's PCR test is positive, your child should self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive Lateral Flow Test. As a school, we will ask for evidence of positive PCR Test results.
4. **In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days.**

**Vaccination;** the school has already supported the community with COVID-19 vaccinations in October for children aged 12 and over. The vaccine is the best defence against COVID-19 and makes people less likely to catch the virus, and less likely to pass it on. We encourage all of the Yardleys School community aged 12 and over to take up the vaccine which can now be received at a national vaccination centre and booked through the NHS booking system or by calling 119.

## **WHOLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT WEEK/MOCK EXAMS AND END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS**

Year 10-11 mock exams have already started. These exams are important and we expect students in school every day with the correct equipment (including knowledge organisers) ready for the exams. Attendance is vital. In preparation for these exams they should be revising from knowledge organisers/resources on the VLE.

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Whole School Assessment/Examination Weeks (Years 7-11)  <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> Mock examinations for Year 10 & 11  Year 7-11 Assessment Week <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Years 7-11 examinations  <b>Please note school will finish at 2:30 pm every day during the final week of term. Due to exams there will be no after school clubs and the library will also be closed. Students are expected to leave or to be collected at 2:30 pm during this week.</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	<b>Students will be dismissed at 12:10 pm, last day of term</b>

## **NON-UNIFORM DAY/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Yardleys staff will be participating in Christmas Jumper Day. For students this will be a non-uniform day (no caps/pouches are allowed) by donating 50p which will go towards Save the Children who have recently put out an urgent appeal to help those in Afghanistan, as well as other areas of need around the world. Students have been reminded about expectations around the importance of good behaviour, attendance and equipment for this day.

### **CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK COLLECTION**

Once again this year we are working closely with Sparkhill Food Bank and the Birmingham Christian Mission to provide much needed goods for a large number of families in the surrounding area. The Sparkhill Food Bank provides three days of emergency food and essentials to those referred to them and are part of a national network, supported by The Tressell Trust, who work to combat poverty and hunger in the UK. Birmingham Christian Mission provides over 200 food parcels each month, something which is particularly appreciated over the winter months. We thank you for your support again this year.

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE/VLE [www.yardleys-vle.com](http://www.yardleys-vle.com) - NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!**

Our school VLE has a lot of useful information and resources for both parents and pupils including details of our curriculum, revision resources and copies of important documents and letters.

Behind the scenes, we have been redesigning our website in-house. It is nearly ready to launch and we hope to make it live before the New Year. It features lots of new content and students will be able to access their class courses and other learning resources from a 'quick links' menu using their usual login credentials.



### **PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL**

Please could parents and carers take care when parking outside of school. We have had several complaints from neighbours of cars blocking drive ways and other vehicle access points. This also creates a real danger to pedestrians including our children when they are leaving school or crossing the road. The school and the whole community were devastated by the tragic incident outside of school resulting in the death of a young child. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. The safety of students and our local community is paramount.

### **BEHAVIOUR IN THE COMMUNITY**

Please can parents and carers remind students of the importance of behaving safely on the way to and from school, for example when crossing roads, if in parks and in looking after the community. Pupils should not loiter outside the school gates and they should be mindful of local residents and members of the public at all times.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

Please note that all pupils need to be lined up ready for the start of the day at 8:40 am and will be recorded as late beyond this time.

We expect all children to have very good attendance to school. Parents and carers of any child not in school will be telephoned at the beginning of the day. Please note that term time holidays are not permitted. Where we have concerns about attendance levels or patterns of absence we will work with parents to improve or rectify the problem. However, we may also take further steps including legal action which could result in various penalties and fines.

### **UNIFORM**

We continue to expect high standards of uniform from pupils and the vast majority of pupils meet our expected standards. However, we need to remind pupils that they need to wear black leather/leather look shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas shoes); loose fitting trousers or skirts to an appropriate length (no jeans, leggings or rolled up trousers); no jewellery other than plain stud earrings and no excessive makeup. Please see the school website for further information.

## **HOMEWORK**

In order to fulfil their potential, all students need to learn and revise for every subject which is what our homework system is designed to support. We expect every student to both learn their knowledge organisers and test themselves using the online Frogplay quizzes or Educake for Science in Years 9 and above. In Maths, the testing uses IXL, with Timetable Rockstars also being used in Years 7-8. This revision homework is set every Monday and due a week later.

As parents, you play a key role in ensuring that your child is completing homework and gaining the knowledge and we ask that you do encourage and support them in doing so. Huge congratulations to all those parents who have ensured that all homework is completed every week. Since September, our pupils have spent an amazing 3400 hours on Frogplay and answered over 630,000 questions on IXL testing their knowledge and giving teachers a weekly snapshot of the aspects of the curriculum that have not fully understood. Special mention to our top Frogplay users: Sana Tabassum (Year 7), Inaya Parveen (Year 8), Zara Ali (Year 9), Rafai Rahman (Year 10), and Ruqayyah Bader (Year 11) and to our top IXL users: Ruqayya Faisal (Year 7), Layla Abid (Year 8), Iman Nurudeen (Year 9), Abuukar Mohamed (Year 10), and Moiz Hussain (Year 11)

The school library is open until 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday and until 3:40 pm on Fridays with computer access.

## **Parent Governors**

We are always interested in hearing from parents and carers who may want to be considered as a parent governor, particularly anyone with business or financial backgrounds or who simply want to make a commitment to improving the school even further. If you are interested and would like to find out more please see the VLE or contact Elisha Holder, Clerk to Governors on [Elisha.holder@yardleys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Elisha.holder@yardleys.bham.sch.uk) or by telephone on 0121 675 2341, by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## **UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS (SPRING TERM 1)**

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Staff training days – school closed to pupils
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	School open as normal to all students
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 11 Parents' Evening – 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022	Year 10 Parents' Evening – 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Year 7 Parents' Evening – 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Last day of term
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Half term – school closed to pupils
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	School re-opens to pupils