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13th September 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and our students a warm welcome back after the Summer break. I hope you all had a restful holiday and we are delighted to be embarking upon another exciting year at Yardleys School. We are also pleased, in particular, to welcome our new year 7 students as they start their important journey from primary to secondary school.

The end of the year culminated in some excellent GCSE results for our last year's year 11 cohort. It was wonderful to see many of them in August back in school and opening their envelopes, seeing what they have achieved after five years at the school. Our results in many areas actually bucked the national trend and we were delighted, particularly after such disruption with Covid-19, that our outcomes compared extremely favourably to the national picture. These excellent results do not happen 'by chance' and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to my wonderful support and teaching staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work, our trustees for their loyalty and support and our young people for their resilience and making the most of the opportunities given to them. I would also like to thank you, as parents and carers for the trust you place in us in educating your son/daughter. The strong relationships we have between home and school are so important in ensuring our young people achieve their very best.

As you are aware, we have three very simple aims as a school that are understood and shared by the whole school community. They are:

- 1) To achieve academic excellence
- 2) To educate the whole child
- 3) To work collaboratively

All of these aims are equally important and will continue to underpin the work we do as we enter another academic year. Our curriculum is constantly being strengthened and broadened, meaning more choice for our students and helping them develop the important knowledge and skills they need to be successful in their GCSEs and beyond. We also recognise the importance of learning beyond the classroom and want to continue to strengthen and deepen students' resilience, problem solving, cultural awareness and curiosity in extra-curricular, enrichment and trips and visits. In terms of working collaboratively, we recognise that by working together with other schools and other teachers, it makes us all better as we share our expertise. Following our excellent Ofsted report back in March, we have had a number of schools wishing to come and see our work and the wonderful results and culture we have here. This will continue further this year as we share the school's success more widely.

I would like to draw your attention to some important notices below. Please do read these. We have extremely high expectations of ourselves and feel it is extremely important that everyone works together to achieve our common goal of ensuring our students achieve their full potential.

As always, thank you, as parents and carers, for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely

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NEIL WARNER Headteacher

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ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please note that all pupils should enter the building by 8:40am through the playground doors, and will be recorded as late beyond this time.

We expect all children to have excellent 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 shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas shoes); loose fitted 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 and ensure that students when they return in September meet the school uniform requirements. Please note, your child has been issued with a new lunch card and lanyard which must be worn every day.

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 safety of students and the local community is paramount. The police have also been issuing fines for illegal parking.

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.

NEW SCHOOL DAY REMINDER - SEPTEMBER 2023

	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
orm/Assembly	8:45am - 9:10am		
Lesson I	9:10am - 10:05am	8:45am - 9:40am	8:45am - 9:40am
Lesson 2	10:05am - 11:00am	9:40am - 10:35am	9:40am - 10:35am
Break	11:00 am - 11:15am	10:35am - 10:50am	10:35am - 10:50am
Lesson 3	11:15am - 12:10pm	10:50am - 11:45am	10:50am - 11:45am
Lesson 4	12:10pm - 1:05pm	11:45am - 12:40pm	I I:45am - I2:40pm
Lunch / Form Time	1:05pm - 2:15pm	12:40pm - 1:50pm	12:40pm - 1:50pm
Lesson 5	2:15pm - 3:10pm	1:50pm - 2:45pm	1:50pm - 2:45pm
Lesson 6		2:45pm - 3:40pm Enrichment/Lesson 6	

We will be introducing a staggered lunch system following student, staff and parental feedback. This will ensure students will have a more streamlined access to the canteen and higher quality social time.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Early closure - Thursday 21st September 2023 - Open Evening/Morning

Our open evenings and open mornings provide an opportunity for prospective parents to visit our school as they make the important decision about which school they would like to send their son/daughter to. Our open evening is on Thursday 21st September. Please be advised that school will close for all students at 1:50 pm on this day, to enable staff to make preparations for the evening, which will be held from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Monday 6th November 2023	School Open to all students	
Friday 27th October - Friday 3rd November 2023	Half Term Holidays	
Thursday 26th October 2023	Attitude for Learning /Progress Review Day	
Thursday 5th October 2023	Year 10 Core Information Evening	
Tuesday 3rd October 2023	Year 11 Information and Careers Evening	
Thursday 21st September 2023	Open Evening for Year 6	