



**Yardleys
School**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as we approach the end of yet another busy, but successful, term. Our school continues to offer lots of opportunities beyond the classroom. We feel this is very important and fulfils one of our key aims which is “to educate the whole child so they are ready for life”. This has seen lots of students taking part in trips and visits such as the geography residential to Snowdonia, Y11 ‘National School and College Leavers Festival’ trip to the NEC, Y10 work experience launch with Learn 2 Work, ‘Royal Institute of Science’ shows, scholars visit to Keble College, Oxford University, Post-16 college assemblies from Solihull College and Solihull 6th Form College, extra-curricular fair, Ackers school games, collegiate basketball, badminton, cricket and football tournaments, SEND multi-skills and cricket festivals, transition festivals, trips such as Carding Mill Valley, Allgood national manufacturing day, events such as Royal Navy outreach programme, Warwickshire County cricket coaching.

These experiences give our young people different skills and knowledge to ensure that they take an active role in society.

You will have seen, in the news, the difficulties that schools are facing with regards to behaviour and attendance. As a school, our expectations of these two areas are extremely high. We insist on excellent behaviour and respect inside the school and in the community. We also expect our students to attend regularly and be punctual to school. Poor attendance leads to poorer outcomes, so it is really important that students do not miss important learning. Please continue to impress upon your son/daughter the importance of attending school.

In the last week of term, you will be receiving our termly newsletter “The Yardleian”. This will give you a more detailed flavour of the range of enrichment opportunities and experiences that have taken place this year.

Your son/daughter will soon be embarking on their assessment week. This is an opportunity for them to demonstrate what they have learnt in all of their subjects. It is also an important way for teachers to assess what students can and can’t do and therefore address gaps in knowledge. Please encourage your son/daughter to revise for these important examinations.

All it remains for me to say is to thank you for your support and loyalty to our school and wish you a very pleasant break when it arrives.

Yours sincerely

NEIL WARNER
Headteacher

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

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

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| Monday 11th – Thursday 21st December 2023 | Whole School Assessment/Examination Weeks (Years 7-11) Monday 11th – Friday 15th December Mock examinations for Year 10 & 11. Please note that Year 11 will be dismissed from the exam venue after the afternoon exams. This may be before the end of the normal school day. Wednesday 13th December – Due to the Year 10 & 11 examinations there will be no Enrichment/Period 6 on Wednesday. School will finish at 2:45pm on this day. Year 7-11 Assessment Week Monday 18th – Thursday 21st December Years 7-11 examinations 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. |
| Thursday 21st December 2023 | Students will be dismissed at 12:15 pm, last day of term |

NON-UNIFORM DAY/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY– THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2023

On Thursday 21st December, for students and staff this will be a non-uniform day, cultural dress day or Christmas jumper day (no caps/pouches are allowed) by donating 50p which will go towards Save the Children. Students have been reminded about expectations around the importance of good behaviour, attendance and equipment for this day.

WINTRY WEATHER AND SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

The season of wintry weather is fast approaching. As you know, the school will remain open if it is safe to do so. If there is heavy snow, senior staff will assess the conditions on the school site. We will remain open as long as there is a safe route into the building. The decision to close the school may be taken at short notice. However, the school website will be updated by 7.30 am to inform you of **any** school closure. If the snow persists, the following arrangements will be made:

- Pupils will be dismissed at **1.50pm**
- No clubs or activities will run after school
- Under these circumstances, parents will be required to make arrangements for children to be collected at **1:50pm** or for them to travel home independently.

Please check the website **before** telephoning the school. The website will be updated by **7.30 am**.

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Please Park in the designated parking spaces outside of school and **not illegally around the school gates**. We have had several complaints from neighbours of cars blocking driveways 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. Please be considerate of others within our community.

BEHAVIOUR IN THE COMMUNITY & LOCAL BUSINESS

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, or local businesses and they should be mindful of local residents and members of the public at all times.

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 January 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.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Monday 11th December – Friday 15 th December 2023 | Year 11 & Year 10 Mock Exams. Please note that Year 11 will be dismissed from the exam venue after the afternoon exams. This may be before the end of the normal school day. |
| Wednesday 13 th December 2023 | School closes at 2:45pm to students. There is no Enrichment or P6 lesson on this day due to Year 10/11 mock examinations. |
| Monday 18 th December – Thursday 21st December 2023 | Whole School Assessment Week – Exams for all year groups. School finishes at 2:30pm to all students this week. |
| Thursday 21st December 2023 | Students will be dismissed at 12:15pm, last day of term |
| Friday 22nd December 2023 – Friday 5th January 2024 | Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 8th January 2024 | Training Day – school closed to students |
| Tuesday 9 th January 2024 | School open to all students |
| Thursday 25 th January 2024 | Year 11 Parents Evening |
| Thursday 8 th February 2024 | Year 10 Parents Evening |
| Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February 2024 | Half Term Holidays |
| Monday 19 th February 2024 | School open to all students |
| Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February 2024 | Year 11 Core Mock Exams Week |