



**Yardleys  
School**

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

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June 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I write to you as we approach the end of the term and the academic year. I have been so impressed with how our students have approached their studies, particularly our year 11 students who have made the most of the opportunities available to them by our excellent teachers and support staff. We are sad to see them leave Yardleys, but I am also excited for them as they start their new chapter. We wish them well, as they embark in the next phases of their lives, either in further education, employment or training.

It has been wonderful to see so many trips and visits this year. Our students have enjoyed careers trips to universities, our Duke of Edinburgh students have been out on expeditions and Year 11 have enjoyed a day out at Alton Towers. We continue to work with outside agencies such as 'Loud Mouth Theatre', to discuss important issues and also our Careers Fair, which gave students an invaluable opportunity to find out about a wide range of jobs and various pathways they could consider. This, combined with the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities our students receive, really does ensure that we meet one of our most important school aims which is to 'Educate the 'Whole Child', so that they are ready for Life'.

We say goodbye to valued colleagues who will be leaving us at the end of the year, we say farewell and thanks to the following teaching staff: Ms. Pritchard (Deputy Headteacher), Ms. Killarney (Head of Year 11), Mr. Lawrence (Head of Year 7), Mr. Cravos (Head of EAL & MFL Teacher), Mr. O'Brien (Lead Practitioner & Teacher of Science) and Ms. Sydenham (Teacher of Art).

We say farewell and thanks to the following support staff: Ms. Mitchell (Student Support Officer), Mr. McGrath (Cover Supervisor) and Ms. Allen (School Receptionist). We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their contribution to Yardleys school.

We have also made a number of new appointments, I would like to welcome Ms. Waseem (Senior Administrator - HR), Ms. Reddington (Teacher of English), Mr. Stavrou (Teacher of Science), Ms. MacDonald (Teacher of History), Mr. Shahir (Teacher of DT), Ms. Shahwe (Teacher of Art) and Mr. Garcia (Teacher of MFL).

My sincere thanks to our amazing teaching, support staff body, and our Governing Body, who work tirelessly to ensure that our students achieve the best academic and whole child education.

There are a number of notices below that I urge you to read. These detail arrangements for the upcoming whole school summer term assessment week, and dates and events this term. I have also included the key dates and events for the new academic year 2024/25.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents and carers, for your ongoing support and loyalty to our school. We really do value the excellent partnerships we have with you as we continue to work together to ensure our students reach their potential. I hope you all have a relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gurpreet Basra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

GURPREET BASRA  
Headteacher

## **YEAR 10 EXAMS & WHOLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT WEEK**

As Year 11 approach the end of their GCSE examinations, we enter a busy assessment period for Year 7-10. Year 10 exams start next week (week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June) and these lead into the whole school assessment week for all cohorts (week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July). **These exams are important and we expect students in school every day with the correct equipment (including revision material) ready for the exams.** Attendance is vital. In preparation for these exams, they should be revising from knowledge organisers/resources on the VLE.

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<b><u>Yr.10 Examinations Week.</u></b> (Examination timetables have already been provided). <b>Please note that Year 10 students involved in exams during these days maybe dismissed earlier than the usual end of school times once the afternoon exams have concluded.</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b><u>Whole School Assessment/Examination Weeks (Years 7-10)</u></b>  Year 7-10 Summer Term Assessment Week <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July– Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b> Years 7-10 examinations  <b><u>Please note school will finish at 2:30pm every day during this week.</u></b> <b>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 2:30pm during this week.</b>  <b><u>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July students will be dismissed at 12:05pm</u></b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b><u>Assessment Marking Day – students are not in school.</u></b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b><u>Students in Year 7-10 return to school as normal.</u></b>

## **OTHER KEY DATES & REMINDERS FOR JUNE/JULY 2024**

Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 11 GCSE exams conclude and Year 11 school Prom
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	New Year 7 (September 2024) Induction Evening, 4:00-5:30pm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Pre-Induction Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Induction Day for new Year 7 Year 10 Visit to JCC.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7-10 Trip to Drayton Manor Park
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7-10 Yardleys School Sports Day. School will finish at 12:15pm for students.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of academic year. School will finish at 2:45pm.

## **EDULINK ONE – SCHOOL APP**

You will have received a text message from the school recently with your login details to our management information app, Edulink (downloadable for your mobile device). This allows you to view various information regarding your child(ren), including attendance, behaviour academic records. Receiving communications electronically is far more efficient and friendly to the environment, with the vast reduction in paper waste. Please ensure that you utilise this new resource and keep updated with the progress of your child(ren) at Yardleys.

## **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.

### **Attendance and punctuality update**

At Yardleys School, we know that excellent attendance is one of the key factors in educational outcomes and exam results – those students who attend school on-time, everyday get the best GCSE outcomes. This is supported by the Department for Education who state: “[Excellent attendance] is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances”.



**In line with local and national government expectations, from September 2024, Yardleys School will be utilising the national framework for penalty notices with regards to attendance.**

### **This means that:**

#### **Leave of absence during term time, e.g., holidays during term time**

Referrals to Birmingham City Council will be made for any student who misses 10 or more continuous sessions (equivalent to five days) of school due to a leave of absence during term time. Such a referral is likely to lead to a Penalty Notice of £160 per student, per parent.

#### **Unsatisfactory attendance**

Referrals to Birmingham City Council will be made to address concerning levels of attendance. On the first and second occasions this process is utilised, parents are likely to receive a £160 penalty notice, per parent, per student. Under new government legislation, a third penalty notice will not be issued and instead, Birmingham City Council can utilise one of the following processes at this stage:

- **Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) – court can fine each parent up to £1,000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Community Order.
- **Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) – court can fine each parent up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Community Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

## **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.

## **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.

## **NEW ACADEMIC YEAR SEPTEMBER 2024-JULY 2025 – KEY DATES/EVENTS**

Below are some important and useful dates for the new academic year. Please note that although term dates and holidays will remain as highlighted, other events can change. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Monday 2nd September 2024	Training Day – school closed to students
Tuesday 3rd September 2024	Training Day – school closed to students
<b>Wednesday 4th September 2024</b>	<b>School open to new Year 7</b>
<b>Thursday 5th September 2024</b>	<b>School open to all students</b>
Thursday 19th September 2024	Open Evening for Year 6
Tuesday 1st October 2024	Year 11 Information and Careers Evening
Thursday 3rd October 2024	Year 10 Core Information Evening
Thursday 24th October 2024	Attitude for Learning /Progress Review Day
<b>Friday 25th October – Friday 1st November 2024</b>	<b>Half Term Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 4th November 2024</b>	<b>School Open to all students</b>
Thursday 28th November 2024	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 29th November 2024	Training Day – school closed to students
Monday 2nd December – Friday 20th December 2024	Year 11 Mock Exams
Monday 9th December – Thursday 19th December 2024	Whole School Assessment Week – Exams for all year groups
<b>Friday 20th December – Friday 3rd January 2025</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
Monday 6th January 2025	Training Day – school closed to students
<b>Tuesday 7th January 2025</b>	<b>School open to all students</b>
Thursday 23rd January 2025	Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 3rd February 2025	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 6th February 2025	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 7th February 2025	Training Day – School closed to students
<b>Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025</b>	<b>Half Term Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 24th February 2025</b>	<b>School open to all students</b>
Monday 24th – Friday 28th February 2025	Year 11 Core Mock Exams Week
Thursday 27th February 2025	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 31st March 2025	Training Day – school closed to students
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 10th April 2025	Year 11 Final Push Information Event
<b>Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April 2025</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 28th April 2025</b>	<b>School open to all students</b>

<b>Monday 5th May 2025</b>	<b>May-Day Bank Holiday</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Year 11 GCSE exams start
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> -Friday 30th May 2025</b>	<b>Half Term Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 2nd June 2025</b>	<b>School open to all students</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June- Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Year 10 exams start
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June-Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	Assessment Week – exams for Year 7-10
<b>Friday 18th July 2025</b>	<b>Last for academic year</b>
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025</b>	<b>Summer Holidays begin</b>