



STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT
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19th July 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

This last week has been a true showcase of everything that is special about Arden. Our school production of Beauty and the Beast was quite simply spectacular. Captivating all of our values, the performance really did showcase our school; the children were at the heart of a tremendous show that was a culmination of countless hours of hard work, support and guidance from a talented and committed team of staff. We really could not have been prouder seeing the production and I am sure that those of you lucky enough to have seen it would agree.

We have also celebrated our students' success in our wonderful Awards Ceremonies, seeing so many of our students recognised and rewarded across the huge breadth of our curriculum and co-curricular opportunities. It has been a pleasure to speak to so many students in the last few days to hear their pride at the achievements that they have earned. An in similar fashion we have today watched our students thoroughly enjoy their Sports Day. The sporting talent is always impressive and inspiring, but the thing that most impressed me today was the warmth of friendship and the huge encouragement that could be seen across the whole school.

We have been delighted with the attitude of our students this year, in particular our students in Years 13 and 11 who sat their A Level and GCSE examinations. We send them all our very best wishes ahead of their exam results on 17th August and 24th August respectively.

As the school year closes, we would like to make you aware of a few logistical pieces of information that will help to ensure we have a smooth start to next year.

Inset Days 2023-24

As a reminder, our Inset Days for next school year are shown below and are published on the school website -

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/term-dates-lesson-times/>

Monday 4th September 2023
Thursday 26th October 2023
Friday 22nd December 2023
Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 5th September 2023
Friday 27th October 2023
Monday 19th February 2024

The students' first day back will be Wednesday 6th September 2023.

- **Year 7 and students new to Arden in Year 12 should arrive in school by 8.40am**
- **Y12 students (who are current Y11) should arrive at 9.05am**
- **All other students should arrive in school at 10.00am**



Dedication Services

Please be aware that during the first few days of the new academic year each year group will be attending a dedication service at Knowle Parish Church during school time. The students will, therefore, walk between school and church accompanied by their Form Tutor or class teacher. Year groups will be attending church on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 6th September - Year 12/13** (during P4 and to be dismissed from church at approx. 2.30pm)
- **Wednesday 6th September - Year 9** (during P5 and to be dismissed from church at 3.30pm)
- **Thursday 7th September - Year 7** (during Form/Period 1), **Year 10** (during P5 and to be dismissed from church at 3.30pm)
- **Friday 8th September - Years 8** (during Form/Period 1), **Year 11** (during P5 and to be dismissed from church at 3.30pm)

Condensed School Days 2023-24

Here are the dates when our students will finish school at 2.15pm (for Parent Consultations, events etc):

- Thursday 28th September – Open Evening
- Thursday 19th October – Year 11 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 9th November – Year 13 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 30th November – Year 10 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 1st February – Year 11 (2nd) Parent Consultations
- Thursday 7th March – Year 9 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 14th March – Year 7 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 18th April – Year 12 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 2nd May – Year 8 Parent Consultations

Monday 4th December 2023

Please be advised that on this day, all students will finish school at 1pm to enable important staff training to be delivered. Lunch will be available for all students if they wish to eat before leaving school.

School Photographs

Students in Years 7, 10 and 12 will also have their individual photos taken during the first week of term and these will be sent home with your child should you wish to purchase a copy. These photographs will also be held on our school database.

- Thursday 7th September - **Year 12 and Year 7**
- Friday 8th September – **Year 7 continued and Year 10**

Student Behaviour Policy

Please see our Student Behaviour Policy and we would ask you to read this prior to the students returning in September:

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Downloads/Arden-Policies/2022-23/Student-Behaviour-v1.pdf>

Uniform

Prior to our return in September, you will no doubt be replenishing learning equipment and uniform. Please do take a moment to remind yourselves of our uniform expectations to ensure that all uniform purchased is in line with school policy.

Please may we remind you that students return in September in their winter uniform.

Please do refer to our uniform policy, available on the school website - <https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/uniform-requirements/> and pay particular attention to the following:

- Girls' school skirts should be no shorter than 4cm above the knee. We realise that girls face a lot of peer pressure to wear their skirts shorter than this but we would appreciate your support when purchasing a new school skirt for the academic year. Could you please ensure that the skirt is of an appropriate length. The uniform skirt is available in a variety of waist sizes, lengths and fits to allow girls to wear the skirt as above. **We will be reinforcing this in the academic year and students will be challenged over the length of their skirts. If they are shorter than 4cm above the knee you will be asked to replace them.** Similarly, could you please ensure that the PE skirt is an appropriate fit and is not being worn too short.
- Boys' school shoes should be black and suitable for polishing. No trainers should be worn. Each year we have to have conversations with parents who have bought footwear that is not appropriate. Once again, if students are wearing inappropriate school footwear, parents will be asked to replace them.
- In Years 7, 8 and 9 make-up and nail varnish are NOT permitted.
- In Years 10 and 11 a small amount of discreet make-up is allowed, but lipstick, coloured lip salve, eye liner, false eyelashes, eyelash extensions or any other obvious make-up are **not** permitted. Nail varnish, gel nails and nail extensions are also **not** permitted, therefore please ensure any false or gel nails are removed before our return to school. Additionally, students must not bring make-up into school.
- Earrings should be a **single plain stud** in the lobe. Please be mindful of this if you engage in any new piercings that do not comply over the summer break, as they are likely to lead to periods of time out of circulation.
- No other piercings are permitted; again, please ensure these are removed before returning to school.
- Please note that tramlines shaved into the hair and eyebrows are not permitted as part of the school uniform - these are considered an extreme hairstyle. Hair dye is also not allowed.
- If you are struggling to purchase appropriate shoes or other items of uniform please do not hesitate to contact us and we will see what we can do to support.

We make no apologies for promoting high standards of uniform as we feel that this is central to fostering and demonstrating pride in our school, as well as promoting a pride in being smart and ready to learn. As always, we ask for your support with this in September.

Lost/Left Property

We have been reminding the students to ensure they **take home all of their property when they finish on Friday 21st July, including emptying their lockers.**

The locker company are servicing the lockers over the summer and any property found in lockers will also be stored in bags, labelled by locker number.

Any items left at school will be available for parents to come and check on **Tuesday 25th July between 10am-1pm only**. After this time, items left will need to be collected when the students return in September. Please refer to our Lost Property guidance –

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/lost-property/>

Morning Break – Wednesday 6th September

As this is the first day back, whilst there will be a morning break for the students at 11.05-11.25am, for this day only there will not be a canteen service. You may wish to send your child in with a snack that day. The morning break service will resume from Thursday 7th September.

Contacting School during the Summer Holiday

During the summer holidays the school office emails will be monitored and sent on as applicable, but please note that replies may not be received until September.

Finally, students will be finishing school on Friday 21st July and will be dismissed from school, in a staggered fashion, from 3pm.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer and thank you again for all your incredible support.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher