



STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT  
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5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back into school tomorrow and to starting what I am sure will be an enjoyable and successful year.

We wanted to remind you of some logistical details to help ensure that the school year begins well tomorrow, these details are shown below:

### **Uniform**

All students should attend school in full winter uniform. We are obviously aware of the warm conditions this week and we will speak to students throughout the week regarding removal of blazers in lessons and during movement around school. On this note, can you please also ensure that your child has with them a refillable water bottle that they can fill during break and lunchtimes.

### **Expectations**

We will be meeting all students tomorrow during assemblies where we will reiterate our expectations for the year. This assembly will be led by myself and our new Deputy Headteacher Mr Burke. Please can you support us in making certain that your child makes the best start possible by stressing the importance of getting the basics correct. By this we mean that they are fully equipped, dressed smartly and are punctual to school and lessons. We want to ensure that all students make the very best start to this year.

### **Cost of Meal Increase**

As you may be aware, we have not increased the cost of the food sold in the kitchen since April 2022 despite some major increases in the costs of food. Whenever possible we try to ensure that the cost of a two-course meal (and the FSM allowance) is consistent with the costs charged by Solihull Catering Service run by Solihull MBC. We have been informed that Solihull Council are increasing the cost of a two-course meal, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, to £2.80 for Secondary Schools; we have decided to match this and increase our two-course meal cost (and Free School Meal allowance) to £2.80. We realise how important it is, particularly in the current financial climate, to keep the cost of meals as low as possible; unfortunately, due to the rising cost of salaries, food and commodities, this increase is now necessary.

Here are some reminders of information from my letter at the end of last term:

### **Arrival times for the students tomorrow**

- **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



### **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**

### **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)

### **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.

Kind regards



**Mr Warwood**  
Associate Headteacher