



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

LICHFIELD

20th July 2016

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of term I would like to confirm arrangements for the new school year with you and share a few updates. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another school year and I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school.

We have had great success recently and if you follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/keslichfield) or follow news via our website www.keslichfield.org.uk then you will have seen our Young Enterprise team go from strength to strength. They appeared on BBC breakfast then went on to win the award for Best Presentation at the UK finals in London and be awarded second runner-up for the Best Company award. From visits to competitions to community events; staff and students have achieved great things. In the coming year we will be changing the way we share good news and information with you and have updated staff roles in school to increase capacity in this area.

After school closes for students on **Friday 22nd July at 1.30pm** we will also be saying farewell to a number of staff. I would like to thank all staff for their service to the school and to give a particular mention to a number of long-serving colleagues. Mrs Leigh has worked in Reprographics since 2002 and has also supported our Presentation Evenings and the Carol Service during that time. Mrs Phelps has been our Attendance Officer since 1991; during that time the role has changed dramatically but her support for the school has been very much valued. Mrs Boyling, Second in Geography, has also been with us since 1991 and has been instrumental in ensuring that her subject has thrived in lessons and through field visits. Lastly, Mrs Wright, Head of Art, who has worked at King Edward VI School since 1975 is retiring. She has been an inspiration to so many students and staff; Art at King Edward VI School is one of the most challenging subjects that you can take – hard work and the absolute necessity of thinking for yourself has developed an ethos in which creativity thrives. We wish all colleagues and students leaving the school well.

Start of Autumn Term

The first day of term for students is **Tuesday 6th September 2016**. For the new Year 7 and the new Year 12, students will attend registration at the normal time and will spend the day completing important induction activities with their Tutors.

For the new Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 this will be a Target Setting Day. Each individual student will have an appointment time to meet with a member of staff to discuss their previous year's progress and to set goals and targets for the new school year. In addition they will complete any important administration and they will be issued with their new timetables and Student Planners. **Full details about the arrangements for Target Setting Day, including appointment times and locations, have been sent by a separate letter.**

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE Telephone: (01543) 421250/255714
E-mail: office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk

In September parents will receive a copy of our list of important dates for the year. This will also be available on the school website. The school term dates and training days are as follows:

Autumn Term 2016:

Term starts for staff:	Monday 5 September
Half Term 1:	Tuesday 6 September – Thursday 20 October
Training Day for staff:	Friday 21 October
Half Term 2:	Monday 31 October - Friday 16 December

Spring Term 2017:

Half Term 1:	Tuesday 3 January – Friday 17 February
Half Term 2:	Monday 27 February – Friday 7 April

Summer Term 2017:

Half Term 1:	Monday 24 April – Friday 26 May
May Day Holiday:	Monday 1 May
Half Term 2:	Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July
Training Day for staff:	Wednesday 28 th June
Training Days for staff:	Monday 24 th - Tuesday 25 th July

Year 9 Parents

In September there will be a **Year 10 Information Evening for parents** (i.e. current Year 9 students) to give guidance regarding the new courses that students will have begun. This will give useful information about assessment, examinations, supporting students and so on which we believe parents will find useful. This will take place on **Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 7:00pm in Bader Hall**. We will send a reminder text message at the start of term.

End of Term Update

As we approach the end of term I would like to update you with some changes to our points system. As you will be aware, students currently gain Achievement Points for positive behaviour and Behaviour Points for any negative behaviour. These points offset each other, and in addition to our normal sanctions, students face time in isolation if their net points total (known as Conduct Points) falls to zero or below.

In order to ensure all types of behaviour are given appropriate attention, from September, Achievement Points and Behaviour will no longer be linked. Students can continue to earn Achievement Points in recognition of their efforts to demonstrate our code of conduct, RESPECT (see below). These points will lead to various prizes and rewards, and go towards the House competition throughout the year.



If a student shows negative behaviour of any kind, they can still expect to receive Behaviour points, which are recorded on their behaviour record. Some behaviour (at level 3 or above) carries automatic sanctions, such as detention or time in isolation. If a student continues to lose points for a particular type of behaviour, they will have additional intervention in order to address this issue. This can include detentions, isolation at break/lunchtime, report card, parental meetings, isolation from lessons, and loss of privileges.

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE Telephone: (01543) 421250/255714
E-mail: office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk

Our desire is to see students taking responsibility for their conduct in school, and recognising that even 'low level' poor behaviour can have a detrimental effect on the learning of the individual, and on others, if repeated over time. More details can be found in the new Behaviour for Learning Policy, found on the website at http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page_id=330.

Code of Conduct: *How We Live*

RESPECT

As a member of King Edward VI School I aim to be:

- **Respectful** towards others and the environment
- **Enthusiastic** and engaged
- **Smart** and presentable
- **Proud** to be a member of King Edward VI School
- **Equipped** to learn
- **Community-minded**
- **Trying hard, aiming** high



In the summer term, parents of Year 9 students were invited to take part in a trial wherein they were provided access to information about their students via the school learning platform. Many parents took the opportunity to login to the platform and see information about their child, specifically regarding attendance, timetable and achievement and behaviour information. We are really grateful for the feedback we have received that will enable us to make on-going improvements to the system. We now hope to extend access to all parents of students at the school when we return in September. Login information will be sent to parents directly.

Uniform Update

As we approach the summer holidays it is a good time to bring to your attention some important information related to uniform so that all students can be properly kitted out for September. Our website provides very clear guidance on what we expect from students in terms of their appearance. The code of conduct (RESPECT), devised by students, reflects this with our aim to be 'Smart and Presentable'. I would appreciate it greatly if you would refresh your knowledge of our uniform guidance by visiting the website at <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk> and clicking the Uniform link  on the homepage. There are two specific areas to which we would like to draw to your attention.

School skirts

The school only allows skirts to be worn that are purchased from our 2 local suppliers which display the school badge. We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach to the wearing of skirts at an inappropriate length. The planner/website states that 'Skirts should always be worn at an appropriate length, no more than 5 cm above the knee'.

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE Telephone: (01543) 421250/255714
E-mail: office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk

We are aware that parents do their best to support the school's policy on uniform and many students undoubtedly leave home perfectly dressed for school. We do have some students who then choose to roll up their skirt to an inappropriate length and have to be repeatedly challenged by staff. This then leads to loss of behaviour points and sometimes it can cause friction which is a negative experience for both staff and students. The follow-up process is outlined below:

- If a student is seen to be wearing their skirt at an inappropriate length (rolling it up at the waist) they can expect to lose 5 points (in line with our Conduct Points system) and this will incur a senior staff detention.
- If the skirt itself is not appropriate, a member of staff will speak to the student to see if this can be resolved. Where necessary, parents will be contacted to ensure that the student can either wear an alternative skirt or trousers from the following day. In certain cases this may be extended for a further day if necessary.
- If the student chooses to continue to wear an inappropriately short skirt after contact with parents then the student will be placed in isolation until the issue can be resolved. This could be through the student changing into a school-provided skirt/pair of trousers, or with the parent bringing more appropriate uniform into school.

Our efforts in this area are motivated by our desire to see all students in appropriate uniform conducive to a professional working environment. Please ensure your child has the correct length skirt for school, and please remind them not to roll up the skirt at the top, or have it taken up from the lower seam.

School Shoes

The school recognises the difficulty of obtaining school shoes that are comfortable, in line with school expectations, and also acceptable to the students. We have clear statements in the website and in the school planner about what is and is not acceptable:



"Plain black shoes. (Not sports trainers or canvas shoes or shoes with obvious logos/emblems. Shoes with high heels, which can be especially dangerous on the school's many staircases, should not be worn.)".

We are asking parents to consider this advice before making a purchase, so that money is not spent on shoes that will not be allowed in school. Please do consider the information sheet we have published on the website providing numerous examples of what is and is not acceptable in terms of school shoes (see [Uniform](#) at <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk>). Should you still be in doubt, please email the school and we will happily advise you on specific shoes.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all, students and parents, a happy restful and peaceful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

J Rutherford (Ms)
Headteacher

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE Telephone: (01543) 421250/255714
E-mail: office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk