



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

July 2017

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's certainly been a busy year and a few of the recent highlights are outlined in the most recent edition of Kespress which can be found via the front page of the school website [www.keslichfield.org.uk](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk) or via the @keslichfield Twitter link [www.twitter.com/keslichfield](https://www.twitter.com/keslichfield).

Kespress also contains important updates on attendance, behaviour for learning, school meals, anti-bullying and uniform as well as an update on the Building Fund appeal and other key dates for the autumn term. Please take a few minutes to read it carefully before the new term and before purchasing any new uniform.

In 2017/18 we will be further reducing the amount of paper which comes home for school letters and reports. We know from parental and student feedback that letters are not always the most effective way to share information and we will therefore be focusing on the following methods of communication:



**Switch Learning Platform** – all parents have a log-in and all students access the internet in their user area via the Switch homepage. This gives access to timetables, achievement points, behaviour points, detentions, student targets and from the autumn term you will be notified when your son/daughter's most recent report is uploaded.



**Show My Homework** – in addition to school planners next year, all students and parents will be able to access homework and supporting resources via Show My Homework online. Year 8 & 9 students have been using this during the summer half-term and all parents will have access to this from September. Initial feedback has been very positive.



**Parents' Evening System** – access to online booking for parents' evening appointments. We appreciate that parents' evenings are busy and that parents like the flexibility of choosing their appointment times. It has also allowed us increase uptake with over 87% of parents attending in Key Stage 3 and 4, 90% in Year 12 and 96% in Year 13 this year.



**ParentPay** – used for Educational Visits and payment for school meals to support our cashless catering system in school. You can also use it to view the meal choices your child has made.



**Texting service or Groupcall Xpressions app** – this is used to provide notification of new information via the website, letters coming home, key reminders and will be used to let you know when reports are updated on Switch.



School website [www.keslichfield.org.uk](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk)

Our website provides a range of essential information, news, our weekly bulletin and links to the systems above.

None of the communication systems above replace direct contact with parents; please get in touch when needed. Please also ensure that we have up-to-date phone numbers, email address and address for your child.

If you require paper copies of any school documentation or support with online systems then please let us know.

## Start of Autumn Term

The first day of term for students is **Wednesday 6 September 2017**. 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 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, will be sent by a separate letter.**

A copy of dates for the year will be available in September on the website. The school term dates are as follows:

### Autumn Term 2017:

Training Days for staff:	Monday 4 September & Tuesday 5 September
<b>Half Term 1:</b>	<b>Wednesday 6 September – Thursday 19 October</b>
Training Day for staff:	Friday 20 October
Autumn half-term holiday	Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October
<b>Half Term 2:</b>	<b>Monday 30 October - Tuesday 19 December</b> (*School closes at 1pm)
Training Day for staff:	Friday 1 December
Christmas holiday	Wednesday 20 December – Tuesday 2 January

### Spring Term 2018:

<b>Half Term 1:</b>	<b>Wednesday 3 January – Friday 16 February</b>
Spring half-term holiday	Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February
<b>Half Term 2:</b>	<b>Monday 26 February – Thursday 29 March</b> (School closes at 3.35pm)
Easter holiday	Friday 30 March – Wednesday 11 April

### Summer Term 2018:

<b>Half Term 1:</b>	<b>Thursday 12 April – Friday 25 May</b>
<b>May Day Holiday:</b>	Monday 7 May
Summer half-term holiday	Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June
<b>Half Term 2:</b>	<b>Monday 4 June - Friday 20 July</b> (*School closes at 1pm)
Training Day for staff:	Wednesday 27 June

## Current Year 9 Parents

In September there will be a **Year 10 Induction Evening for parents** (i.e. current Year 9 students) with guidance on the new Key Stage 4 courses. This will give useful information about assessment, examinations and supporting students through the next two years. This will take place on **Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 7:00pm in Bader Hall**. We will send a reminder text message at the start of term.

As we move in to the new school year, I would welcome your feedback on communication from the school. If there are particular updates that you would find useful then please let us know.

Requests for paper copies of documents can be made by parents where required. If you do not have regular access to the internet then please call or send a note including your child's name and tutor group addressed to Mrs Selwyn (PA to Headteacher) via Bader reception so that we can make contact with you early in the autumn term to discuss ways to ensure that you have access to all relevant information, booking system and letters.

School closes for students on **Friday 21 July at 1.30pm**. I wish you all, students and parents, a happy and relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely

J Rutherford  
Headteacher