



16th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 8 End of Year letter July 2025

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and collaboration. We have had some wonderful events like the school production of Fame; the Summer Festival; over 50 trips; and some phenomenal sporting successes. We are looking forward with excitement to another wonderful year in 2025-2026. **Just a reminder that on Friday 18th July 2025 students will finish school at 12:30pm.** On Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September students are not in school as staff have training days. Wednesday 3rd September is the first day of term for students and details of this can be found below.

Message from Mr Whitehurst – Year 8 Achievement Leader

As I sit writing this, I can't quite believe we've reached the end of another academic year. Even more unbelievable is the fact that my time as Achievement Leader for Year 8 has come to a close. I remember writing at the end of last year about how brilliant the year group was, how well settled they had become in school and how well-liked they were by staff. In truth, I find myself this year having exactly the same opinions of them. They are all a year older (And bigger!) and many have now hit the 'Teen Zone' which will bring with it various interesting challenges for them as individuals and as a year group as a whole. However, they remain, quite simply, lovely.

So, why do my opinions of the year group remain so positive? Well, the reasons are many.

Firstly, they are a very intelligent group of young people who are already achieving very highly indeed. They work hard in lessons and staff genuinely comment how much they enjoy teaching the individuals and classes in Year 8. We have very high hopes for them in this regard.

Secondly, they get involved in so many positive activities linked to the school and beyond. From sports to music, drama, clubs, festivals, shows, councils, Library helpers, anti-bullying ambassadors and much more. They really are a group of young people who like to get involved which means they genuinely seem to get a lot of positivity from their time with us. This is amazing to see.

Finally, and more significantly I feel, they are genuinely lovely young people. We get lots of evidence of Year 8 students being caring and looking out for one another. We have had new students join the year group since September and it's been lovely to see the ways in which Year 8 students have welcomed them into school and helped them settle in and establish new friendship groups. At the end of each assembly the whole year group give unprompted, respectful applause to the assembly speaker and I feel that this is a great indication of their politeness and respectfulness.

As I hand over the year group to Mr Tizard, I feel a huge sense of pride in them and very much hope that they can continue to work as hard as they can, to try to be the very best versions of themselves at all times and achieve the things they deserve to. They will continue to be supported by a wonderful team of form tutors who do amazing work with them and really care about them too. There will be challenges ahead but I know that every step of the way they will be supported fully.

Well done year 8, it has been a genuine privilege and a pleasure. Good luck.

Message from Mr Tizard – Year 9 Achievement Leader

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Mr Tizard, and I am delighted to be introducing myself as the Achievement Leader for your child's year group. It is a real privilege to be working with such a vibrant and enthusiastic group of students, and I am very much looking forward to the journey ahead.

Over the next three years, my aim is to provide a supportive and inspiring environment where every student can thrive both academically and personally. These are important years in their development, and I am committed to helping each individual grow in confidence, develop resilience, and achieve their full potential. The first step is guiding them successfully through year 9 and their option choices for their GCSE's.

I strongly believe that a strong partnership between school and home is key to student success. I look forward to working closely with you, sharing in the achievements, and supporting your child through any challenges that may arise along the way. Open communication is very important to me, and I encourage you to reach out at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. My email address is jtizard@keslichfield.org.uk

I know that you will join me in thanking Mr Whitehurst for the care, support and guidance during your child's time in Lower School. I know that he will keep in close contact with me to follow your child's progress with anticipation.

Thank you for your ongoing support—I am excited for what lies ahead and feel confident that, together, we can make these next three years both successful and rewarding for your children.

Preparing for September

In preparation for the new school year, I would like to draw your attention to a few items that will allow for a positive start in September and ensure you have key information in one place.

Student Induction Day

All students will return to school on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025** for an induction day. Each year group will have a bespoke set of activities tailored to their needs. The induction day will focus on developing the key skills that students in each year group will require to be successful in their forthcoming year of studies.

To provide our new Year 7 students with a less congested start and finish to their first day in school, we will be staggering the timetable for other year groups. Students must go to Bader Dining Room if they arrive early or need to wait for transport at the end of the day.

Timings of the day (more detailed information will be sent out to students via Satchel One):

YEAR GROUP	START	FINISH
YEAR 7	08:50	15:15
YEAR 8	09:10	14:45
YEAR 9	09:40	14:45
YEAR 10	10:10	14:15
YEAR 11	10:10	14:15

YEAR 12	08:50	15:15
YEAR 13	09:40	12:30

From Thursday 4th September 2025, all students will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm, which are the timings of our normal school day.

One of our key areas of the code of conduct is “Ready.” Please take the time to read through the following advice so that students are “Ready” for the new term.

Mobile Phones

In line with recent DFE Guidance, [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Students in Years 7-11 are not permitted to use mobile phones during the school day. We appreciate that parents and carers may wish students to have their phones for the journey to and from school. **From 8:45am – 3:15pm phones should not be seen or heard and must be turned off and kept in bags, not pockets or blazers.** Students are not therefore permitted to use their phone to look at their timetable or to find out the time. We advise that students keep a copy of their timetable in their planner or bag and that they wear an inexpensive wristwatch to school. Students who persistently break this rule will have their phone confiscated and parents/carers will need to collect this from main reception after the end of the school day.

Uniform

To assist parents and carers in ensuring students have the correct uniform for September, please view our guidance on the school website [Uniform - King Edward VI](#). We would ask all parents and carers to check that items of uniform are in line with our expectations for uniform. Please pay particular attention to the guidelines regarding skirts, trousers and footwear, to ensure that your purchases meet the criteria set by the school. A reminder that **nose/eyebrow/tongue piercings** are not allowed in school and students will be asked to remove them in line with our uniform policy. Students do not have the option to wear a retainer in place of any piercing.

Equipment

As part of our commitment to ensuring the highest standards, each student should have a pencil case containing basic equipment to support their learning and examinations. The school information pack and posters in classrooms state that all students should have at least:

- Two pens
- A green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Highlighter
- Glue stick
- Mathematical equipment e.g. Scientific Calculator – the advised model is Casio Classwizz



Desirable items include:

- Eraser and sharpener
- Small school safety scissors

Attendance & Punctuality

All students must be on site by 8:45am for a prompt start to tutor time (registration.) The blue gates on Upper St John Street will close at 8:45am. Students should therefore ensure they are on site in good time.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but helps to ensure that students are able to make the most of their educational experience, realise their full potential and get the best possible start to their adult life. If your child is too ill to attend school, a parent/carer should contact school **via text on 07860 034183 before 8:30am** on the first day of absence and leave the following details:

- Student name
- Tutor group
- A brief reason for the absence
- Estimated length of absence

If your child's attendance falls below our minimum expected target of 96% throughout the year, we will contact you in line with our whole school attendance strategy to offer support.

Leave of Absence

Leave of absence refers to any pre-planned absence from school (part lesson, lesson, full or part day) that is for a reason other than one related to time off for medical appointments or illness. Leave of absence should be applied for by completing the online form at least 5 days in advance of the absence and a separate form should be completed for each student. A formal response will be sent to parents/carers. Please note that absences for holidays are **not** marked as authorised absences.

For 6th Form university visits and external music exams organised by the school's peripatetic music teachers, a Leave of Absence form is not required. In these cases, please text the school to give advance notification on 07860 034183 and supply proof of the music exams via attendance@keslichfield.org.uk

Information regarding attendance and the Leave of Absence form can be found here [Attendance - King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/Attendance-King-Edward-VI). Please note, absences for holidays are not authorised.

We hope that you and your families have a lovely Summer and a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming your child back into school for the start of the new academic year on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Whitehurst & Mr Tizard

Achievement Leaders

Mr Larkin

Assistant Headteacher

Community

Miss K Hinz

Assistant Headteacher

Inclusion