



ARDEN

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT
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9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the end of term begins to loom larger on the horizon, we wanted to write to advise you of our end of term arrangements and a few special activities that are taking place.

Before doing so, we want to stress just how delighted we have been with the hard work, engagement and focus of our students throughout this term. It has been a real privilege to see the engagement in learning on a day-to-day basis that takes place across the entire school. We are sure that both our students and our staff are all now very much looking forward to a well-deserved rest once the Christmas holidays arrive.

We do also want to congratulate last year's Year 11 and 13 cohorts. Now that the national performance data has been officially released, we can confirm the exceptional results of both of these cohorts, which placed our school 187th out of over 3000 schools nationally.

GCSE: Progress 8 Score of 0.78
A Level: Average Grade B+

We are very much looking forward to celebrating and recognising these achievements at our Presentation Evening in the new year.

Photos – Year 11 & Year 13 Tuesday 13th December

Our school photographer is here on Tuesday 13th December for the Year 11 and Year 13 students' photographs. This will be both individual and year group photographs. These will be available to purchase, via an order form that will be brought home with students.

Christmas Concert Tuesday 13th December 7pm

Further to Dr Seago's letter, there are still some tickets available for the concert on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm – <https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Downloads/Letters/All-Years/Christmas-Concert-Letter-Dec-2022.pdf>

Please come and enjoy the concert; it's a great start to Christmas.

Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 14th December

We are inviting all staff and students to wear Christmas jumpers (**on top of normal uniform shirt/blouse and blazers must still be worn**) to raise funds for St Basils, a local charity that supports young people that have difficult living situations (details can be found here <https://stbasils.org.uk/>). We are acutely aware that whilst Christmas is an exciting time for many, it is also an extremely difficult time for some. We wish to ensure that, as a school, we are able to make a difference to some people in our local communities who are in need of additional support.

Donations (minimum £2 per student please) can be made via your ParentPay accounts and by Thursday 15th December at 9am please.



Christmas Services & Christmas Presents Collection

Unfortunately, due to the heating system being broken at Knowle Parish Church, we will be unable next week to take the students for our annual Christmas services.

They are, however, invited to bring **new** Christmas presents to school. These will be passed to the Birmingham City Mission who will distribute them to those in need. Please see their website for full details - <https://www.birminghamcitymission.org.uk/christmas-toys>

Gifts can be delivered to Reception or we will collect them from the students during Form time next week.

If you are unable to donate an **unwrapped present**, please feel free to make an additional payment when you donate, via ParentPay, for the Christmas Jumper Day.

Please note that the latest we can accept donated gifts is 9am on Thursday 15th December as they are being collected on Thursday.

Festive Food Wednesday 14th December

We would like to inform you that our catering team will be serving a two-course Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14th December at the meal of the day cost of £2.45.

Last Day of Term

School will finish for students **on Thursday 15th December** when they will be dismissed by their Head of Year at the following times:

- Years 7, 8, 9 - from 3:15pm
- Years 10, 11 - from 3:00pm
- Year 12 - students should attend as usual for lessons and may leave at the end of period 4, 2.30pm.
- Year 13 – students should attend as usual and may leave after their last lesson of the day.

Student Bags/Property & Lockers

Could you **please ensure that your child/children take home all of their bags, PE kits etc when they leave on Thursday** as the site team conduct a deep clean during the holidays.

We will put all property left at school in the Reception area and you may come to school on **Friday 16th December between 10am-1pm** to view this.

Any bags/uniform/kit left on site after Friday 16th December will be passed on to the PTFA for re-sale, or be donated to charity.

Contacting School

Please note that the school office will be closed from 4pm on Friday 16th December and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January. Emails received during the Christmas period will be sent on when we return in January.

We wish you a very enjoyable festive season and we look forward to welcoming all students **back in school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Warwood', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher