



17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT  
01564 773 348  
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Further to my letter last week please find below details relating to our return to school in September.

### **The students' first day back will be Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

- Year 7 and students new to Arden in Year 12 should arrive in school no later than 8.40am
- Year 12 students (who are current Year 11) should arrive at 9.05am
- All other students should arrive in school at 10.00am

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Year 12/13** (during P4 and to be dismissed from church at approx. 2.30pm)
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Year 11** (during P5 and to be dismissed from church at 3.30pm)
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Year 9** (during Form/Period 1), **Year 8** (during P4/P5 and will be walked back to school before being dismissed)
- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September - Years 10** (during Form/Period 1), **Year 7** (during P4/P5 and will be walked back to school before being dismissed)

### **Inset Days 2025-26**

As a reminder, our Inset Days for next school year are shown below and are published on the school website -

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Times&pid=47>

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026



### **Condensed School Days 2025-26**

Here are the dates when our students will finish school at 2.15pm (for Parent Consultations, events etc):

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Open Evening
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 13 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Year 10 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 (2<sup>nd</sup>) Parent Consultations
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Year 7 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Year 12 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Year 8 Parent Consultations

### **School Photographs**

Students in Years 7 and 12 will also have their individual photos taken during the first week of term and students in Years 10, 11 and 13 will have their individual photos (and for Year 11 and Year 13, a year group photo as well) the following week. These photographs will also be held on our school database.

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - **Year 7 and Year 12**
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – **Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13**

### **Student Behaviour Policy**

Over the past academic year, Arden Academy has seen an improvement in student behaviour and engagement. Following the comprehensive review of our key policies and practices, including the Student Behaviour Policy, we introduced several changes aimed at raising expectations and fostering a culture of excellence.

We are proud to report that nearly all our students have embraced these changes and consistently meet the new standards. The introduction of behaviour points in place of the previous strike system has proven effective in promoting accountability and encouraging positive choices. Students have shown greater responsibility in areas such as uniform, punctuality, and conduct, both in and out of the classroom.

The link between behaviour and access to extra-curricular clubs, school trips, and celebration events has also had a powerful impact. Most students now maintain a positive Learning Behaviour Account, demonstrating more achievement points than behaviour points. This shift has not only improved behaviour but also increased participation in enrichment opportunities, with students motivated to uphold the high standards required to take part.

After-school faculty detentions have been implemented successfully, reinforcing the message that disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated. These detentions, along with clear communication with parents/carers, have helped maintain a focused and respectful learning environment.



We have also significantly expanded our rewards and recognition programme. We have recognised significantly more students in our end of year awards ceremonies, particularly recognising our students that do everything we ask every lesson, every day, of every school week. Our termly "Zero Heroes" celebrations have become a highlight of the school calendar, honouring those students who consistently meet expectations without receiving any consequences. The Learning PRIDE tray of treats has become a regular feature in classrooms, providing immediate recognition for students who demonstrate our core values.

Thanks to the collective efforts of students, staff, and families at Arden Academy. We are incredibly proud of how our students have raised their game and look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

### Uniform

Prior to our return in September, you will no doubt be replenishing learning equipment and uniform. Please do take a moment to remind yourselves of our uniform expectations to ensure that all uniform purchased is in line with school policy.

**Please may we remind you that students return in September in their winter uniform.**

Please do refer to our uniform policy, available on the school website - <https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/uniform-requirements/> and pay particular attention to the following:

- Girls' school skirts should be no shorter than 4cm above the knee. We realise that girls face a lot of peer pressure to wear their skirts shorter than this but we would appreciate your support when purchasing a new school skirt for the academic year. Could you please ensure that the skirt is of an appropriate length. The uniform skirt is available in a variety of waist sizes, lengths and fits to allow girls to wear the skirt as above. **We will be reinforcing this in the academic year and students will be challenged over the length of their skirts. If they are shorter than 4cm above the knee you will be asked to replace them.** Similarly, could you please ensure that the PE skirt is an appropriate fit and is not being worn too short.
- Boys' school shoes should be black and suitable for polishing. No trainers should be worn. Each year we have to have conversations with parents who have bought footwear that is not appropriate. Once again, if students are wearing inappropriate school footwear, parents will be asked to replace them.
  - This includes Nike Air Max or equivalent
- In Years 7, 8 and 9 make-up and nail varnish are **not** permitted.
- In Years 10 and 11 a small amount of discreet make-up is allowed, but lipstick, coloured lip salve, eye liner, false eyelashes, eyelash extensions or any other obvious make-up are **not** permitted. Nail varnish, gel nails and nail extensions are also **not** permitted, therefore please ensure any false or gel nails are removed before our return to school. Additionally, students must not bring make-up into school.



- Earrings should be a **single plain stud** in the lobe. Please be mindful of this if you engage in any new piercings that do not comply over the summer break, as they are likely to lead to periods of time out of circulation.
  - We have seen an increase in nose piercings and ear cartilage piercings. **Students will be placed into lunchtime detentions every day until they are able to remove the piercing for school.**
- No other piercings are permitted; again, please ensure these are removed before returning to school.
- Please note that tramlines shaved into the hair and eyebrows are not permitted as part of the school uniform - these are considered an extreme hairstyle. Hair dye is also not allowed.
  - **Students will be placed into lunchtime detentions every day until the tramlines have been faded out.**
- If you are struggling to purchase appropriate shoes or other items of uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will see what we can do to support.

We make no apologies for promoting high standards of uniform as we feel that this is central to fostering and demonstrating pride in our school, as well as promoting a pride in being smart and ready to learn. As always, we ask for your support with this in September.

### **Lost/Left Property**

We have been reminding the students to ensure they **take home all of their property when they finish on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, including emptying their lockers.**

The locker company are servicing the lockers over the summer and any property found in lockers will also be stored in bags, labelled by locker number.

Any items left at school will be available for parents to come and check on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July between 9am-11am only.**

Yours faithfully

**Mr D Warwood**  
**Associate Headteacher**

