

18 July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Summer Term 2018 Newsletter

King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham

I am extremely pleased to inform you that on 1 September 2018 Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy will be transferring to the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham when we will adopt our new name of King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy. The consultation with yourselves, staff and governors did not raise any objections to this proposal, which is extremely positive. We are currently working on all the legalities associated with transferring to a multi-academy trust with King Edward VI Academy Trust to ensure a smooth transfer in September. For your information the other academies in the trust are:

- King Edward VI Aston School
- King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys
- King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls

These are all grammar schools and are our closest academies so most of our collaborative work will be carried out with them. The trust refer to these schools and us as the "northern cluster." The remaining academies in the trust are in south Birmingham and are:

- King Edward VI Camp Hill for Boys
- King Edward VI Camp Hill for Girls
- King Edward VI Five Ways
- King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy

Being a member of the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham will enable us to achieve the following:

- Provision of a broader curriculum in the Sixth Form where minority A Level subjects, such as drama for example, can be offered across the four northern schools. This will help us increase the number of students on roll and secure our Sixth Form's future.
- Access to a wider range of foreign languages, including Mandarin, for our students.
- Increased opportunities for students to access the top selective universities through targeted mentoring and support in collaboration with other schools in the Trust.
- The provision of a wider range of enrichment opportunities for students in the arts and sport.
- Staff collaboration on teaching, learning and assessment between the four King Edward VI schools in the north of Birmingham.
- The development of an effective strategy for succession planning through more opportunities for leadership development across the Trust, such as secondments and job shadowing.

- Efficiencies in expenditure at a time where budgets have been significantly cut in Birmingham.

Other opportunities will no doubt manifest themselves over time, but it really is an exciting venture for all of us.

For admissions to our academy, the criteria will remain the same as it is now in that there will be no selection by ability. The academy start and finish times also remain the same and our holidays will continue to be the same as the other schools in Birmingham. As the academy name is changing, the only change to the uniform is the badge on the blazer as it will include the letter KEVI above the logo. However, you will not need to do anything about this as the academy will pay for and provide the new badge to every student who is currently in years 7 – 10 and have arranged for Gogna's to come into the academy in September to stick them on the blazer pocket for every student. More information on that will follow in the new academic year.

GCSE, A Level and L3 BTEC Examinations

This year's external exam season went extremely well. This year, more reformed GCSEs were examined, so the vast majority of them will be reported as grades 1 – 9 when the results are published. It will be the GCSEs taken next summer in 2019 which will all be graded 1 – 9. A Levels are still graded A* - E but are now examined after a two year course rather than being split into AS and A2. The external exam results this year will be published on the following dates:

- A Levels – Thursday 16 August from 8.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
- GCSEs – Thursday 23 August from 8.30 – 12.00 p.m.

Students will need to go to the Sixth Form area to collect their results.

Y7 Residential Trip

This term saw our first residential trip for year 7 who spent two days and one night at the Kingswood Centre in Staffordshire, near RAF Cosford. 82 of our year 7 went on the trip and enjoyed a range of activities such as abseiling, orienteering, building a go-cart and a campfire. This was all helped by the wonderful weather we have been having which meant the girls could be outside all the time. I visited the centre on the Monday evening and it was very clear that they were really enjoying themselves and having a lot of fun. We will be running a residential trip again next year for year 7 and another one for year 9, which has already been advertised. I would highly recommend that if your daughter is currently in year 8, that you allow her to attend this trip as the benefits to confidence, team-building and establishing new friendships are enormous.

Attendance and Punctuality

I continue to be concerned about the amount of students being taken out of the academy to travel abroad during term time. I cannot give permission for any of these requests as students are expected to be in the academy. Students have over 13 weeks holiday during the academic year which provides enough opportunity for any trips to take place. I do expect full attendance from all students to ensure they do not miss out on learning which could impact negatively on their progress.

We have now changed our procedure if students are late to the academy, the details of which you received in a letter from me two weeks ago. This has already reduced lateness significantly and I would like to thank you for your support in this matter. Good habits of full attendance and arriving on time are essential in preparing young people for adulthood and the world of work, therefore it is essential we maintain a high standard.

Firefly

Our VLE, Firefly, continues to develop with a bigger range of resources and information for our students. All home study is set on Firefly so if you want to see what tasks your daughter is being set then you can view those there. We also now use Firefly to publish letters to you and your daughter's progress reports. Disappointingly, not many of you are accessing Firefly and are therefore not getting key messages and information. If you would like more information on how to set yourself up on Firefly, please contact us on firefly@hwga.org.uk.

Uniform

I have been very pleased with the standard of uniform this year and would like to thank you for your support in this matter. If you are unsure about any aspect of the uniform, please check our website or your daughter's planner which contain all the information you need.

Keeping Safe During the Summer Holidays – Advice from the Police

With the long summer holiday fast approaching the police have asked us to issue stranger danger advice to you to share with your daughter to help keep them safe when they are out and about.

Here are some simple steps you can take to make sure your daughter can stay safe on the street:

- Never go off on your own with a stranger, take things from them or get in a car with them.
- Make sure you tell your parents where you are.
- If someone scares you or makes you feel uncomfortable, go somewhere safe, which could be your home, your school or a police station.
- Remember to tell someone what has happened straight away.
- If you have Snapchat check the settings on the new location sharing feature, [Snap Maps](#), including details about how to change your settings and tips for staying safe.

Useful Links for Parents

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is the only children's charity which can safeguard children. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>

All students have been reminded about keeping safe on-line during the summer holidays in assemblies as well.

Academic Year 2018 - 2019 Key Dates

Summer Term 2018	
Friday 20 July	End of term for students and staff
Monday 23 July – Tuesday 4 September	Summer Holidays
Autumn Term 2018	
Wednesday 5 September	Return to school for students Y7 – 11 & Y13 8.40
Thursday 6 September	Registration for Y12 8.40
Wednesday 19 September	Open Evening for Y6 5 – 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 25 October	Students break up for half-term holidays
Mon 29 October - Fri 2 Nov	Half-Term
Monday 5 November	Staff and students return
Mon 26 Nov – Fri 7 Dec	Y11, Y12 L2 & Y13 1 st Mock Exams
Friday 21 December	End of Term
Mon 24 Dec – Mon 7 Jan	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term 2019	
Tuesday 8 January	Return to school for all students for Spring Term
Friday 15 February	Break up for half-term
Mon 18 Feb – Fri 22 Feb	Half-Term
Monday 25 February	Staff and students return
Mon 25 Feb – Fri 8 Mar	Y11, Y12 L2 & Y13 2 nd Mock Exams
Friday 12 April	End of Term
Mon 15 Apr – Fri 26 Apr	Easter Holidays
Summer Term 2019	
Monday 29 April	Staff and students return for Summer Term
Monday 6 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Mon 13 May – Fri 21 Jun	External Exam Season
Friday 24 May	Break up for half-term
Mon 27 May – Fri 31 May	Half-Term
Monday 3 June	Staff and students return
Friday 19 July	End of Term
Mon 22 Jul – Tue 3 Sep	Summer Holidays
Autumn Term 2019	
Wednesday 4 September	Return to school for students Y7 – 11 & Y13 8.40

Staff Leaving

Inevitably, at the end of the academic year, some staff leave for pastures new, retirement or for personal reasons, and this year is no different. This year we will be saying goodbye to the following staff:

- Mr Siviter, Teacher of Creative Design
- Mrs Cheema, Head of Maths

- Mr Lee, Head of Music
- Mrs King, Teacher of Chemistry and Science
- Mrs Burgess, Teacher of Food
- Mr Gayle, Site Manager
- Ms Fletcher, Teacher of English
- Mr Ashraf, Teacher of Maths
- Mr Parekh, Teacher of PE

I would like to wish them all the best and good health for the future and to thank them all for their work at Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy.

Thank you all too for the support you give to your daughter and the academy to help her progress and achieve success. This term finishes on Friday 20 July at 12.00 p.m. for the students and we all start back on Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 8.40 a.m. We have again had a year of lots of developments to deal with which have meant a great deal of work for the staff. They have continued to show their commitment to the students and passion for their role in the academy, for which I am very grateful.

I trust you will all have a good summer holiday with your families and friends. I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Walters

Headteacher