

Friday 5th September 2025

Welcome Back

Welcome to our Friday communications where we try and keep you informed and up to date on everything KNSB. Feedback from parents tells us that having one dedicated place to share information helps them stay in touch, so again this year, we will try and ensure the majority of our communications are shared each Friday, keeping communication outside of this format for those urgent or time sensitive messages.

To our new students, a very special welcome! We are thrilled to have you joining our school community. As you start this new chapter, know that you are now part of a supportive and vibrant environment where we strive to do our best, to help you to do yours. Our dedicated staff team is here to guide and support you every step of the way and you have made a very good impression already.

To our returning students, welcome back. We are excited to continue our journey with you and to build on the successes of the past year. This year, we have an array of new opportunities and experiences planned, including two new GCSE courses, and we look forward to seeing you grow and achieve your goals.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your partnership is crucial in fostering a nurturing and effective learning environment for our students. We encourage you to stay engaged with us and to take an active role in your child's educational journey.

As always, our focus remains on providing a high-quality education that not only meets academic standards but also prepares students for their future. This has been, yet again, reinforced by some wonderful examination results, and we are very proud of our 2025 leavers, boys who five years before, due to Covid, had missed their Year 6 leaver celebrations and were the first of two years who had not taken KS2 SATS, plus they had a hugely disrupted start to their secondary education. Nevertheless, there have been lots of very happy students and, as a collective, our 2025 leaver results are once again above the early indicators for national averages. Once we have completed our analysis of the results, we will share a more detailed update.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, full of learning, growth and achievement.

Enrichment Activities

To kick off the first week back, our school hall was full to the rafters last night with the parents of Year 8 boys who are going on the residential trip in a couple of weeks' time. How fabulous to start the year with such a positive event. Today, we have some of our 24-25 Elite boys on an outdoor activity reward trip, and on Wednesday next week we will be holding our Year 11 Barcelona trip meeting for parents of the boys who are going on that! We have lots of great opportunities for boys to enrich their learning and to gain rewards at KNSB – watch out for news of these across the year.

Early Close for Open Evening 9th October

This is advance notice that school will close early on Thursday 10th October to allow for preparation time for our Open Evening. There will be more information in the coming weeks about the time that your son will be released from school.

INSET Day Amendment

We had previously shared that school would be closed to students on Friday 26th September for INSET. However, due to the revised availability of an external provider, we have had to amend this date to **Friday 10th October**. On this date, following Open Evening, staff will be in school, but school will be closed to all students. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but regrettably this is beyond our control.

Recycled Uniform

We currently have a surplus of recycled school uniform available free of charge. This includes blazers, jumpers, shirts and trousers in a range of sizes. All items have been checked to ensure they are in good condition and ready for use, so we encourage families to take advantage of this opportunity, whether to help with the cost of uniform or to have spare items on hand. If you would like to access the uniform, please contact the school office for more details.

Lost Property

Every year we very quickly start to accrue items of lost property that students have misplaced in school. Some of these are smaller items, like pencil cases, but even expensive coats and trainers end up there and are never claimed. To ensure that we can return items that are handed in back to their rightful owner, please make sure that all your son's uniform, including his school bag (and anything else you *can* label) is clearly labelled with both first and last names.

Leaving School at the End of the Day

We have done our best this week to get Year 7 students to the gates just before the other students leave as the end of the day is such a busy time and it can be overwhelming for our new intake. They have coped well with this so next week their end of school time will be 3.05 like the rest of the school.

We have only been using the gate nearest to the Selly Oak Road mini-roundabout and the bus stop gate in recent months due to the ongoing roofing work taking place on site. However, from next Monday, the other gate on Northfield Road will also be open at the end of the day. Students have been reminded today about which gate they should use to leave school: if they turn left as they leave and head down Northfield Road in the Cotteridge direction, they should use the gate that is currently in use. If they are heading right out of school towards Northfield, they should use the other gate that will be open from Monday. Only students who are queuing for the bus should use the middle gate. These arrangements help us to keep all students safe.

Dropping off or Collecting Your Son from School

For those of you that collect your son from school, either on foot or by car, you will undoubtedly already be aware that the periods of time at the start and end of the day, when students are arriving at or leaving school, can be somewhat challenging. The sections of Northfield Road closest to the school site are very narrow, and the road also has to accommodate the No 18 bus route, as well as the vehicles of parents who are collecting their sons. Furthermore, the pavements adjacent to the school site are similarly narrow too, and this can prove problematic if students and parents congregate close to the school gates, sometimes meaning that students have to walk in the road to go around them.

We fully appreciate that many of our Year 7 parents will have wanted to accompany their sons to school in the first few days, and the recent particularly rainy weather will have led to lots more parents collecting boys by car. However, it is vitally important that we make a collective effort to keep our boys safe upon their arriving at and when leaving school, so we ask that you take some simple steps to support with this:

please can you park a little further away from school if you are dropping off or collecting your son. There is ample space in adjacent roads to do so, and this will help us to keep the area directly outside the school safe and minimise any risks to our boys
avoid parking on the pavement, as this forces students to walk in the road and risk being harmed by passing traffic

arrange to meet your son further down the road if you are on foot, to avoid the exits becoming clogged up and again necessitating students walking in the road
drive in a safe, sensible manner when driving along or stopping on Northfield Road, including not turning, either in the road or on neighbouring driveways.

We have been working with the local council and West Midlands Police in recent months to improve road safety conditions and implement traffic calming measures around our school site. If we all support this and take individual steps to collectively improve the situation, we can all help to keep our boys safe.

Year 7 Confidential Information

Year 7 students have brought home their confidential data for parents/carers to check this week. Please spend some time checking this information and making any amendments, before sending this back to us via your son's Form Tutor. **The deadline for these to be returned to us is Friday 12th September.**

Head of Year 8

Last Year, Mrs While temporarily stepped into the Head of Year 7 role and we are delighted to announce that this is now a permanent appointment, and she is now Head of our current Year 8. Mrs While is looking forward to continuing her work with the students and their families in the coming years.

Year 11 Period 6

We will once again be offering our Year 11 students the opportunity for further study time with their teachers via Period 6 sessions. These will commence for many students and subjects in the week commencing 15th September. These sessions have proven invaluable for our boys in the past, and provide opportunities to consolidate understanding of topics, identify and address misconceptions, and ensure that our students are fully prepared for their GCSE examinations. Individual timetables for each student will be shared with students next week.

Student Lockers

Thank you to families who have already purchased lockers. Year 7 students received their lockers this afternoon, and we will be distributing the remaining year groups early next week. If any Year 7 students have not received their lockers please ask them to talk to their form tutor.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 10th September – Barcelona Visit Parents Meeting

Thursday 11th September – Paris Visit Parents Meeting

Thursday 18th – Sunday 21st September – Barcelona Residential Visit

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd September – Paris Residential Visit

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th – KS3 Residential Visit

Monday 29th September – School Photographs

Tuesday 30th September – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Wednesday 01st October – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Friday 03rd October – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Thursday 09th October – Open Evening (students to finish early – Further details to follow)

Monday 13th October – Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Monday 27th – Friday 31st October – Half Term Holiday