



11th December 2023

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

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 167th in the Times Parent Power Schools Guide. This achievement in context placed Arden as the **West Midlands Comprehensive school of the year**, ranking us 12th nationally for comprehensive schools, an accolade that all involved should be very proud of.

GCSE: Progress 8 Score of 0.62
A Level: Average Grade B+

We are very much looking forward to celebrating and recognising these achievements at our Presentation Evening on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

Photos – Year 11 & Year 13 Tuesday 19th December

Our school photographer is here on Tuesday 19th December for the Year 11 and Year 13 students' photographs. This will be for 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 Monday 18th December 7pm

Further to Dr Seago's letter, there are still some tickets available for the concert on Monday 18th December at 7pm – <https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Downloads/Letters/All-Years/Christmas-Concert-Letter-Dec-2023.pdf>

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

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 21st December

We are inviting all staff and students to wear Christmas jumpers in place of their school blazers to raise funds for Save the Children (details can be found here www.savethechildren.org.uk). Students who do not wish to wear a Christmas jumper should continue to wear full school uniform. We have chosen to support this charity given the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The charity targets its support at the innocent children who are affected by the ongoing conflict. 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 through our generosity and kindness.



ARDEN ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER: MR D WARWOOD BSC (HONS) | TEL: 01564 773348 | EMAIL: OFFICE@ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Arden is part of Arden Multi-Academy Trust, a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. No. 7375267. Registered Office: Station Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0PT

Donations (minimum £2 per student please) can be made via your ParentPay accounts and by Thursday 21st December at 9am please.

Christmas Services

All pupils will be visiting Knowle Parish Church for our annual Christmas services. Church services will take place on the following dates; the pupils will be walking to/from Knowle church, accompanied by their Form Tutors:

Year 7	Thursday 21 st December
Year 8	Wednesday 13 th December
Year 9	Friday 15 th December
Year 10	Thursday 14 th December
Year 11	Tuesday 19 th December
Years 12/13	Wednesday 20 th December

Christmas Presents Collection

All pupils are 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. The children who will benefit from these gifts are aged between 0-15 years old. New toys, books, games and puzzles are needed and they ask that you do not wrap your gift so they can match the gift to the child. Please see their website for full details - <https://www.birminghamcitymission.org.uk/christmas-toys>

Please bring your Christmas gifts to the Reception where they will be collated under the Christmas tree. Please note that the latest we can accept donated gifts is 9am on Monday 18th December as they are being collected later that day.

Festive Food Wednesday 20th December

We would like to inform you that our catering team will be serving a two-course Christmas lunch on Wednesday 20th December at the meal of the day cost of £2.80.

Last Day of Term

School will finish for students **on Thursday 21st 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 22nd December between 10am-1pm** to view this.

Any bags/uniform/kit left on site after Friday 22nd December will be passed on to the PTFA for resale, or be donated to charity.

Contacting School

Please note that the school office will be closed from 4pm on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 8th 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 Monday 8th January 2023.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Warwood', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher