



KING EDWARD VI NORTHFIELD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls,
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1 November 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

As we start another half term, I write with a number of brief updates:

Social Media

In addition to a school [Twitter](#) account, we also now have a school [Facebook](#) page. Hopefully this will prove a useful way of sharing school news and events with parents. Please remember commenting on the page is no substitute with contacting the school via reception (enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org) if you have concerns you need addressed.

Covid-19

As a school we seem to have escaped relatively lightly last half-term, with positive cases amongst pupils and staff in the low double figures. This stands in stark contrast with some other schools in Birmingham and elsewhere where a return to year groups working at home due to staffing shortages have occurred. We are not clear why we have been fortunate, and a number of theories, such as the excellent internal airflow in this new building, fail to explain it to my satisfaction. Therefore, it seems reasonable to expect that next half-term may see worse disruption, as cases soar nationally. Overall, this underlines the need to make sure attendance is as good as it possibly can be the rest of the time, as an insurance against disruption to come.

Vaping

In recent weeks we have confiscated a number of very small, discreet, disposable vaping devices. We have been told that these devices, produced in appealing, child-friendly colours, flavours and styles have been sold from the counter of a number of shops. As these devices are legal only for over-18s we will share these reports with Trading Standards.

As something of a craze potentially develops amongst young people for this new wave of cheap, disposable vape pens (often the size of a pen lid), which discharge very little steam and thus are potentially hard to detect, we expect to have to sanction more children for possession of these items in school. We are also concerned about the chemicals which these products may contain (some alarming news reports exist), and the uncertain health impacts of inhaling unknown heated chemicals into developing lungs.

I would like to ask parents to be vigilant, searching your daughter's bag or pockets if you feel it required, and informing the school if your daughter shares details of anyone bringing these devices into school for sale or use.

Completion of building work

Our building work is close to completion and we will soon have the whole site to ourselves again at last. Whilst we will have to wait some time yet to get full use of the fields as the grass grows, we should gain access to our Multi-Use Games Area which will see a greater variety of activities in PE and in our extra-curricular clubs and activities. We also hope to open up our wonderful facilities to community use shortly

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones

Legally known as Turves Green Girls' School (URN: 103499 and DfE number: 330/4187) until the school officially joins the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham on the 1st September 2021



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after half-term. If you know anyone who may be interesting in hiring our facilities please let our reception know (enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org) and we will pass on the enquiry to the letting's agency.

Darker Nights

The Police, who we work closely with, have asked us to ask parents to discuss the following with their child as nights get darker. Ask your child to consider the company she keeps: the police would like to remind every young person if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible. At a time when some young people may misuse fireworks, with potentially life changing consequences, this is particularly worth remembering.

School Reviews

Since the start of the term we have had three external reviews by a range of experts, focusing on SEND provision, safeguarding and the quality of teaching, organised through the King Edward VI Foundation. I am very happy to share that each of these reviews found a good deal of great practice and strength in each of these crucial areas. As we continue to improve our school toward being one of the very best in Birmingham, the knowledge that we are getting so much right already is deeply reassuring. Further details about these reviews are available upon request.

Extra-Curricular Activities

It has been very encouraging to see over 200 pupils attending our wide range of after school and Saturday morning clubs over the last half term. Please encourage your child to give at least one club a try this term, there is a clear link between those that perform well at school and attending school clubs. You can find the extra-curricular clubs' program on our school website.

Mrs Summers returns from maternity leave

We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Summers today, she will be returning as teacher of French and to her Head of Year role. She will take responsibility for Year 7, with Mrs Reeves leading whole school pastoral care. Please contact Mrs Summers in the first instance on any matters regarding Year 7 from now on.

Kind Regards

E. Reeves

Mrs E Reeves
Assistant Headteacher