



**KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

Educational excellence for our City

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**KING EDWARD VI
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BIRMINGHAM**

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13 December 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

I write with a number of updates / reminders as we approach the Christmas break.

1) Last Day of term arrangements

We will be finishing at 12.40pm on Friday 22nd of December. This is **not** a non-uniform day, although if your child is fortunate to own a Christmas Jumper, they may swap it for the normal school jumper for the day.

2) Christmas Dinners

A complimentary Christmas dinner will be served to Year 7s and 9s on 19th December, for Years 8 and 10 on the 20th December and for Year 11s on 21st December. These festive meals will take place during Period 3 and do not require payment by parents, and parents may wish to reduce packed lunch on the relevant day accordingly.

3) Farewell to Mr Jackson

Mr Jackson, our Head of Science, will be leaving us at Christmas to take up an exciting role with an exam board. Mr Jackson joined the school as a freshly minted newly qualified teacher in 2009. In a few short years he had taken over the leadership of what was then a Science Faculty in trouble. He has worked relentlessly to improve standards in Science, transforming the curriculum and helping many pupils achieve their ambitions of moving into Science-based careers like medicine, some of whom still come and visit him at school. Mr Jackson will be deeply missed, and we are determined to build upon his success in raising attainment in Science.

4) Farewell to Mrs Reeves

Mrs Reeves, our Assistant Head, also leaves us at Christmas to begin a new role in the leadership team of a prestigious school. Mrs Reeves has been with us even longer than Mr Jackson and is in fact our longest serving colleague having worked at our school for very many years.

In that time Mrs Reeves excelled as a PE Teacher, Head of Year 7 and Transition before taking on the massive role of leading pastoral care and safeguarding within the school. She has shown a tremendous level of commitment to our pupils and families. Her high expectations have always been tempered by a strong belief in providing support. Inevitably these incredibly high standards have led to Mrs Reeves working incredibly long hours throughout the week and weekend. Mrs Reeves has been an invaluable asset to the school and her departure will leave a massive gap. Our consolation is that Mrs Reeves leaves behind her the superb pastoral team she has built.

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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It has been a strange term in some ways, with my lengthy absence before half-term and a number of our brilliant teachers beginning maternity leave earlier than anticipated or otherwise requiring absence. In light of the school's relatively strong financial position we are appointing a number of additional permanent staff in addition to new colleagues to cover maternities, which means more than a few new faces next term but will also mean the impact of absences of specialist teaching will be minimised going forward:

- Mr Ishaque – Acting Head of RE
- Dr Pidoux – permanent Teacher of English
- Mr Housley – permanent Teacher of Science
- Mrs Sanders – Acting Head of Food Science and permanent Food Science Teacher
- Mrs Colvin-Grieve – Assistant Head Pastoral
- Ms Lonsdale – Teacher of PE
- Ms Dirie – Science Technician

5) First Night Appeal

Our charity campaign has collected forty-three boxes of essentials for Women's Aid, supporting families who have been forced to seek refuge from violent homes. Ms Shepherd has done a tremendous job coordinating this work and we are extremely grateful to her. Thank you for your support with this collection.

6) Saturday Clubs

Our Saturday Clubs will not run over the Christmas period, with the last sessions for both Saturday Drama and Saturday Multi-Sports 'Fun for All' taking place on 16th December before re-starting on 13th January.

Yours faithfully

Neil Jones
Headteacher