

**Dear Parent/Carer**

**I write with a number of brief updates:**

### **Open Water**

We have heard that a number of children from this school and others have been swimming in a lake by The Hayes by the BCFC training ground, mainly Year 9s but possibly some Year 8s were also there.

There are very real risks of unsupervised swimming in open water such as lakes, canals, reservoirs and rivers, due to unpredictable conditions in the water. Cold temperatures, even in summer, can lead to hypothermia, there may be hidden underwater hazards or currents that can pull swimmers off course, even in seemingly calm waters. Tragedies have been well documented in the media in recent years. Please discuss the risks with your child and be mindful of their leisure activities over the holiday.

### **School Photos**

As part of our ongoing efforts to showcase the vibrant life and learning at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls, we will be updating the photographs used around the school, in our prospectus, and on our website. A professional photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** to capture a range of images throughout the school day. Please be assured that any children who do not have photo consent will not be included in any pictures. To help us present the best image of our school, we kindly ask that all pupils attend in their full, correct school uniform on both days.

### **Key Stage 3 Assessment**

Shortly after Easter, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be sitting end of year assessments. Please see previous communication from Mr Chesterman, which outlines key dates and topics pupils need to be revising. It is important that students apply themselves fully for these assessments as these results will be recorded on end of year reports and will determine sets for the following academic year.

### **Year 10 Mocks**

Year 10 will start their mock examinations on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Please see previous communication from Mr Chesterman that outlines the topics students should be revising and provides some key revision tips and a mock timetable.

### **Staff Changes after Easter**

We are losing three members of staff after Easter.



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Mr Atkinson, our extremely dedicated and effective Designated Safeguarding Lead, is relocating with his family to the Highlands of Scotland. Luke has worked here, first on Attendance, then as Deputy Safeguarding Lead and finally as the Designated Safeguarding Lead. His contribution to the school has been incredible and he has effectively coordinated support for some of our most vulnerable pupils at difficult times. He will be greatly missed.

Mrs Parker-Barnes, one of our Cover Supervisors, is also leaving. Mrs Parker-Barnes joined us in 2023 and has been a consistent and friendly presence in covered lessons.

Mrs Coombes, joined the French team in the current academic year to cover Mrs Summer's maternity. Mrs Coombes has secured a permanent post in another school. She has proved invaluable in supporting our pupils during Mrs Summers' absence.

#### **IT Changes**

On the afternoon of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, the school will start to move to a new IT system with the Academy Trust. This will mean that **there will be no IT access for pupils during the first week of Easter**. All pupils have been given a sheet with their new temporary password that needs to be changed at the first login.

From 21st April, pupils will be able to login and complete the Sparx Maths homework that has been set as normal, providing they have followed the steps on the sheet they have been provided with and have logged into their new e-mail account and reset their password.

In closing, thank you for the support you have continued to provide your child and the school this half-term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NJ' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Mr Neil Jones  
Headteacher



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