KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new half term, it feels an appropriate opportunity to reflect on what has already been a very positive start to the academic year and to look ahead to the exciting opportunities, events and achievements still to come. While my time at Northfield has been relatively short, I have already received such a warm welcome from pupils, staff, parents and carers. I am particularly grateful to the many families who have stopped to say hello at the school gate, attended our recent school events, or taken the time to introduce themselves. Your kindness and support have been greatly appreciated.

What has impressed me most, however, is our pupils. Every day I see young people who are polite, resilient and ambitious. The past few weeks have been filled with activity and opportunity, with pupils embracing school life both within and beyond the classroom. From lessons and extracurricular activities to the many trips that have already taken place, it has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and engagement across the school. There is a real sense of purpose at Northfield, and I have enjoyed watching our pupils make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be working towards this year's school production of Matilda the Musical. Rehearsals and preparations are already underway, and I know our pupils and staff will put on a fantastic show. Opportunities such as these are an important part of school life, allowing pupils to develop confidence, creativity and teamwork, whilst creating memories that will last long after they leave Northfield.

Alongside these exciting opportunities, we also have some fantastic achievements to celebrate. We are delighted that Northfield School for Girls has been awarded £500 from the Siobhan Dowd Trust to spend on books through a pupil visit to an independent bookshop. This is a wonderful opportunity to further develop our library stock, promote a love of reading and provide pupils with a memorable literary experience.

We have also been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement. This recognition reflects the value we place on music at Northfield and is a testament to the hard work of our pupils and staff, whose commitment helps ensure that music remains a vibrant and important part of school life.

And the last day of last half term, brought something rather different to our school community as we welcomed a rather unusual visitor: a robotic dog named Ben Ben! Equal parts fascinating and slightly unnerving, Ben Ben certainly captured the attention and imagination of pupils and staff alike.





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We know that achieving success is a shared responsibility. Staff, families and the wider community all have an important part to play in supporting our young people to thrive, achieve their potential and look forward confidently to their futures. When school and home come together with a shared purpose, the positive impact on a pupil's progress, wellbeing and opportunities can be significant.

At Northfield, we want every pupil to be the very best they can be. Achieving this requires high expectations, mutual respect and a commitment from us all to uphold the standards that make our school a safe, purposeful and successful environment for learning. To support this partnership, please find some useful information about our key expectations below.

Good things to know/Reminders

Uniform Reminder

By choosing to attend Northfield School for Girls, families agree to support the school's uniform and appearance expectations. We ask that parents and carers ensure their daughter attends school in full, compliant uniform each day, including skirts, trousers and footwear that meet the requirements set out in our policy. Following a uniform policy helps to promote a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our school community. It also supports the development of personal responsibility and preparation for future workplaces, where dress codes and professional expectations are commonplace.

We would also like to remind families that facial piercings are not permitted, with the exception of a nose piercing fitted with a clear retainer or clear stud in line with our policy. Last academic year, the school amended its expectations to permit clear nose retainers and studs, recognising that some pupils may choose to have a nose piercing. This reflects a degree of flexibility not offered by all schools. In return, we ask that pupils adhere to the reasonable expectation that any nose piercing worn in school remains discreet through the use of a clear retainer or clear stud. Pupils who choose to have a nose piercing are responsible for ensuring that a compliant clear retainer or stud is worn every day.

Up until now, the small number of concerns regarding non-compliant nose studs have been addressed through individual discussions with pupils and families where required. While these conversations will continue, the school's approach will now fully align with that used for any other uniform infringement. Pupils will be given the opportunity to correct the issue and comply with the school's expectations. From 16th November, pupils who do not comply with the school's policy regarding nose studs will be required to remain out of circulation and attend Time Out until the stud is removed or replaced with a clear retainer or clear stud. Please note that covering a nose stud with a plaster does not make it compliant with the school's policy.

Where a pupil is temporarily unable to change or remove a stud for medical reasons, appropriate medical evidence should be provided, such as a note from a healthcare professional or evidence of prescribed treatment for an infection. In the absence of such evidence, the standard expectation will apply going forward for all pupils.

We would like to thank the many families who have worked positively with us to support and uphold these expectations especially to ensure fairness for all.

The full uniform policy can be found here: KEVI-NSG-School-Uniform-Policy-Sept-2026.pdf

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Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of positive educational outcomes.

We ask families to support their daughter's attendance and to avoid requesting leave during term time wherever possible. Authorised absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances and decisions are made in line with Department for Education and Birmingham City Council guidance.

Please note that family holidays and routine travel arrangements would not normally be considered exceptional circumstances.

Free School Meals

If your daughter is entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure that your eligibility information is kept up to date.

Pupils receiving Free School Meals are entitled to a lunchtime meal. This could be the meal deal at lunch time which includes a main meal and either a dessert or drink. In addition, all pupils have access to a free bagel at form time each morning should they wish to have one. Any additional items purchased from the canteen (either at breaktime or lunch) must be paid for through the pupil's catering account, so families should ensure these accounts are topped up where appropriate.

Fidget Toys and Squishies

We have recently seen an increase in the number of fidget toys and sensory items being brought into school, with some pupils bringing large collections of these items. We recognise that fidget tools can be beneficial for some pupils and therefore continue to permit them in school. However, we ask that any fidget items are discreet, used appropriately and do not make noise that could disrupt learning or distract others in lessons.

To ensure a safe learning environment, slime is not permitted in school, nor are squishies or similar items that contain liquids, gels or chemicals. This is due to concerns regarding potential damage, spillages and the safety risks associated with some products, particularly where there have been reports of harmful substances being present in certain items. We appreciate families' support in ensuring that any sensory aids brought into school are safe, appropriate and conducive to learning.

Advisory Regarding Hot Liquid Containers and Hot Water Bottles

Due to health and safety concerns, hot liquid containers and hot water bottles are prohibited in school.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas Lunch on Thursday, 10th December. On this day, pupils and staff are invited to wear a festive or Christmas jumper alongside their usual school uniform. We hope this will be a fun opportunity for our school community to come together and enjoy the festive season while continuing with the normal school day. Further details regarding Christmas lunch arrangements will be shared closer to the date.

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Extra-Curricular & Enrichment

One of the many things that makes Northfield such a special place is our extensive enrichment programme. We strongly encourage every pupil to take advantage of the wide range of clubs, trips, leadership opportunities and activities on offer, particularly those that may be new to them. Trying something different can help pupils build confidence, develop new skills, make new friends and discover interests and talents they may never have known they had.

Charity Support

Children in Need 2026 this year will take place on Friday 13th November. The theme for 2026 is "Challenge Yourself", focusing on raising vital funds to ensure the charity can be "by the side of every child" who needs support through life's challenges.

On Friday 13th November, pupils are invited to wear something Yellow or spotty and/ or a Yellow or spotty accessories alongside their school uniform for a suggested donation of 50p. Ideas may include:

- Yellow Pudsey ears
- hair accessories (bow, bandana, hairband, hat etc)
- Yellow or polka dot socks or tights
- Yellow nail varnish
- Temporary yellow hair colour or clip-in extensions
- Yellow or spotted bag or bag charm

Pupils are welcome to wear one or a combination of these items. Our staff will also be joining in to help create a "wave of spots and yellow" across the school.

We will also be holding a YELLOW Raffle. Raffle ticket strips will be available for both staff and pupils to purchase for 50p, with the main prize being a hamper of yellow-themed items put together by our NSG staff. In addition, there will be a cake sale during both break times, with a selection of sweet treats available from 50p each.

To keep everyone entertained throughout the day, we will be selling tickets for all year groups to take part in the Strictly 26 Dance move challenge at lunchtime and encouraging them to show support to staff who are taking part in other challenges throughout the day.

Information from Child bereavement UK

We have been contacted by the above organisation who are offering a FREE webinar for parents who are supporting a bereaved child or young person, the next date is Monday 23rd November and the link to sign up is here https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-a-bereaved-child-for-parents-families-and-carers-training

They also have some online groups for children, young people and parents to access and attend for further support, further information can be found following this link
https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supportive-talks-and-webinars

As the darker mornings and evenings set in, I would like to remind all pupils and families to take extra care when travelling to and from school.

We encourage pupils to stay on well-lit routes, travel with friends where possible, remain aware of their surroundings, and avoid distractions such as mobile phones or headphones when walking. Families may

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also wish to discuss safe travel arrangements with their children and ensure they know who to contact if they feel uncomfortable or concerned whilst out in the community.

We are aware of community concerns regarding some individuals who may occasionally be present in the local area. While not all behaviour is unlawful, pupils should be reminded not to engage with anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable and to move to a safe, populated area or seek assistance from a trusted adult if they have any concerns. We continue to work closely with local partners and the police to promote community safety. If you witness behaviour that causes concern or poses a risk to the community, please report it to the police using the appropriate reporting channels.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more of our pupils' successes and celebrating the many opportunities and achievements that this half term will undoubtedly bring.

With best wishes,

M Collins

Mrs Milena Collins
Headteacher