

25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parent(s),

As we come to the end of another very busy term and academic year I should like to make you aware of the following.

### **Staffing changes**

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Boyle (Teacher of Biology and Chemistry), Mrs Deu (Teacher of Mathematics and Head of Years 10 and 11), Mr Marston-Smith (Teacher of Games/PE), Mr Rean (Teacher of Geography) and Ms Whetstone (Teacher of French and German).

Joining us from September will be Ms Reid (Teacher of Computer Science), Mrs Devaney (Teacher of Mathematics), Mr Singh (Teacher of Biology), Ms Walsh (Subject Leader for Geography), and Mr Wright-Smith (Teacher of Games/PE)

In addition Ms Ruckgaber has been appointed as the German foreign language assistant for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Ms Pierce (Subject Leader for Geography) has been appointed Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for data and target setting. Mrs Blundell (Deputy SENCO) has been appointed Head of Year 7 and Mr Hall has taken over from Mrs Deu as Head of Years 10 and 11. Mr Northcott (Year 7), Mrs Sagheer (Years 8 and 9) and Mrs Lally (Years 10 and 11) have all been appointed Assistant Heads of Year.

Mrs Downing (Subject Leader for Art and DT) and Dr McKee (Subject Leader for RE/Philosophy) have been appointed Co-ordinators for Teaching and Learning while Mrs Lally will be the first leader of Hawley House.

Mrs Moy (Teacher of History and Geography) will commence her maternity leave early next term with her timetable being covered by Ms Norris.

### **Vacancies**

The school will be looking to make the following appointments next term

1. Chemistry technician (permanent, full-time)
2. Physics technician (maternity leave cover-full time)
3. Teaching Assistant (full-time, term-time only)

If you know anyone who may be interested in any of these positions please ask them to contact me at the start of next term, ideally by e-mail to [c.parker@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:c.parker@keaston.bham.sch.uk)

## **Curriculum developments**

I am pleased to inform parents that from September 2017 the school has received funding from the Swire Foundation to establish a Mandarin teaching hub based at the school. In short this means that from September the pupils will have the opportunity to learn Mandarin initially as part of the school's enrichment programme. The two teachers delivering the Mandarin programme will be Mrs Liu and Mrs Yang.

Parents should also be aware that the school is working ever closer with Handsworth Grammar School who are expected to join the King Edward VI Multi-Academy Trust from September 2017. The main aim of this collaboration is to ensure that the school continues to be able to offer the full range of A-Level subjects. The two schools already work together in the delivery of A-Level French and German, Government and Politics, Art, Music and Design Technology with further subjects expected in the future.

### **A cashless school**

From next term the school is moving away from having payments made by cash and cheques. We would like to move to a system where all payments for trips, fees etc. are made via Parent Pay. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are unsure about how to use Parentpay or have lost your login information.

### **After school Care Provision**

The school offers an After School Care Service from 3.45pm-5.45pm available to all pupils in Years 7-10. If you are interested in finding out more about this provision and have not already done so please contact Mrs Sagheer at [afterschoolcare@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:afterschoolcare@keaston.bham.sch.uk) or alternatively you can find further information via the school's web site ([www.keaston.bham.sch.uk](http://www.keaston.bham.sch.uk))

### **Parent contact details**

Please can I remind parents of the importance of the school holding their correct contact details, especially mobile telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. The school should be notified of any changes at the earliest opportunity ideally by sending an e-mail to Mrs Ward in Student Services at [b.ward@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:b.ward@keaston.bham.sch.uk)

### **Parents' Association**

This year the Parents' Association as a result of its Aston Villa car parking scheme has been able to purchase items for the school with a total value of just under £25,000 including lap tops for the sixth form, a 3D printer, well-being workshops, outdoor table tennis tables and a baby grand piano for the recital hall. This is in addition to their purchase of the prizes for both speech night and the lower school awards ceremony and the serving of refreshment at most of the events held in a typical school year.

I should like to thank all those who have volunteered their own time to make these purchases possible and would encourage others to give just a little of their time in support of the school. Please contact the current Chair of the Parents' Association, Mrs Hawtin, at [pachair@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:pachair@keaston.bham.sch.uk) to offer your help.

### **Key dates for the 2017 autumn term**

4 <sup>th</sup> September	Staff training day-no students in school
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Staff training day-no students in school
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Only students in Years 7 and 12 required to be in school
7 <sup>th</sup> September	All students required to be in school Year 10 information evening
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 12 information evening
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 welcome evening
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Staff training day-no students in school
Half term holiday	Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October-Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> October
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Staff training day-no students in school
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Open Evening
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 13 parents' evening
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Speech Night. School finishes for all students at 12.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup> November-1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 11 internal exams
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Parents' evening
4 <sup>th</sup> December-8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 13 internal exams
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes for the Christmas holiday

All that remains is for me to thank you for your support during the year and to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely,



C. Parker  
Headmaster