



King Edward VI Aston School
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20th December 2018

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful but challenging term I should like to make parents aware of the following:-

Staffing Changes

During the term we said goodbye to Mr Biggs (Teacher of Computer Science and Mathematics) but have been able to welcome Mrs Price in his place.

During the term Miss Lexy (Subject Leader for Mathematics) announced that she will be retiring from teaching at the end of the current academic year and stepping down from her subject leadership role at the end of this term. At the end of the 2019 summer term Miss Lexy will have taught at Aston for forty years and later during the year we will give all of the school community the opportunity to thank Miss Lexy for her tremendous support to the school and generations of boys over so many years.

Mrs Boyce Has been appointed Subject Leader for Mathematics from 1st January 2019.

Winter Weather

Please can I remind all parents that in the event of the school having to close due to poor weather a text message will be sent. If the closure is due to overnight conditions parents can expect to receive a text message before 7.00am. Given this, it is absolutely essential that the school has an up to date mobile number for all parents. If you think this is not currently the case or wish to confirm the numbers held for you on the school's system please contact Mrs Piper in Student Services at b.piper@keaston.bham.sch.uk

Authorised Absence

Please can I remind all parents that requests for authorised absence must be notified to the school at the earliest opportunity ideally by e-mail to c.parker@keaston.bham.sch.uk Authorised absence cannot be used to extend school holidays and every effort must be made to ensure that visits overseas coincide with the school holidays. If requesting authorised absence in relation to travel outside of the UK please can parents attach confirmation of their flight details showing their son's departure and return times to and from the UK.

In addition, please can I ask that routine medical and dental appointments are booked to take place outside of the school day or preferably during a school holiday. If this is not possible please can you attach confirmation of the appointment from the doctor or dentist to your e-mail requesting authorised.

Headmaster: C.Parker, *M.Hist, MBA, NPQH*

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Please can I remind parents that students, not even those in Years 12 and 13 can request authorised absence for themselves. Again if absence is required to attend a university course etc. a copy of the letter inviting your son on to the course must be attached to your request.

Parents' Association

As many of you will know, during the term Rachael Hawtin stepped down as Chair of the Parents' Association after five very successful years. I am grateful to David Stanley for taking on the role of Chair with Feraz Mustafa as Deputy. I should also like to thank Keyna Parkin, who has also stood down, for her excellent work as treasurer.

Last year the football parking scheme raised in excess of £28,000 which will allow the school to buy resources that otherwise it would not be able to do. After Christmas PA support will allow us to replace the computers in one of the IT classrooms and fund an on-line reading programme. Other purchase have included seven indoor table tennis tables, hockey kit, i-pads and furniture for the sixth form centre as well as many of the prizes awarded at speech night. In financially challenging times this support is invaluable and really does make a difference.

If you would like to find out more about the PA or offer to help on the match day parking scheme please contact Mr Stanley at PAchair@keaston.bham.sch.uk

Parking and Safety

Please can I encourage all parents to use the Mosque car park on the corner of Upper Sutton Street if coming to school to collect their son in the afternoon and remind you of the availability of a Green Bus service to transport pupils to and from Aston railway station. Please also remind your sons to remain vigilant when travelling to and from school and to follow the advice given by the school. While the number of incidents this term has significantly declined there is no room for any complacency whatsoever in the boys' approach to their safety.

This term ended with a wonderful music concert; a reminder that despite the negative press coverage of schools there is still much to celebrate.

I wish you all a relaxing Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,



C. Parker
Headmaster

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Key dates for the 2019 spring term

7 th January	Staff training day. No students required to be in school.
8 th January	Term starts for all students.
24 th January	Year 9 parents' evening
31 st January	Instrumental music parents' evening
7 th February	Year 10 parents' evening
Half term holiday	Monday, 18 th February - Friday 22 nd February
25th February	School resumes for all students.
28 th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening
5 th March	GCSE options evening for students in Year 9
14 th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
28 th March	Year 12 Parents' Evening
12 th April	School finishes at 3.35pm for the Easter holiday
29 th April	Term starts for all students.

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