



INFORMATION SHEET

October 2017

Oldbury Wells

Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been a busy and fruitful half term seeing our new students arriving and settling with confidence into KS3 and also our new Sixth Formers beginning their studies. Please note that our students break up for the half term holiday on Thursday, 19 October. School will be closed on Friday 20 October for a staff Professional Development (PD) Day.

Exam Results

You may remember I was a little vague about exam results earlier in the year because we have to wait for the Department for Education to analyse them alongside all other schools before giving us a judgement. I am delighted to inform you that our results have been validated as strong with a positive +0.1 score this year. This places us sixth in the county this year and, although not as high as our second place last year, I feel this is very respectable. I am pleased to note that we stand in top place in our local East Shropshire / South Staffordshire area. So many congratulations to both pupils and staff!

Academy Conversions

We are so pleased that Castlefields Primary School and St Leonard's C of E Primary School are joining our Educational Trust on 1st November 2017, making us a family of four schools. You will know that Jackie Hampson and Kay Ferriday are excellent local Headteachers who run excellent schools. We think this will really add to the strength of the Trust. They will continue to operate as independent schools without need of leadership support. In fact, quite the opposite, I look forward to the strength they can bring to Oldbury Wells School and Alveley Primary School.

School Gates

We have new school gates being installed during the half term break, furnished with a buzzer to Reception. Our main Reception for parents will continue to be on the West side of the school (right hand side as you drive up the lane), as it is now. Parents' and visitors' parking is reserved at the front of West Reception and can be accessed by pressing the buzzer at the gate on arrival. Reception staff will electronically unlock the gate for you.

Year 11 Sixth Form Information Evening

On Thursday, 9 November we will be holding our Sixth Form Information Evening, for Year 11 students and their parents, in the East Hall and Sports Hall. There will be a talk by Mrs Bishell about Post 16 options with all A-level and Vocational subjects represented. The Sixth Form Prospectus will also be handed out during the evening. In tutor time after half term, Year 11 students will be looking at their potential options for Post 16 study which leads up to the Information Evening. We do hope to see you there.

Best wishes to you all

Headteacher

TERM DATES

Please make sure you always refer to our school website, www.oldburywells.co.uk, for accurate information on term dates and PD Days. A couple of websites have been set up to give this information for all schools nationally and, because they don't receive their data from us, it is often incorrect!

Autumn Term 2017

Starts	Tuesday, 5 September 2017: Y7, Y13 (& Y12 students who were <i>not</i> present on results day) Wednesday, 6 September 2017: Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11, & Y12 Induction Thursday, 7 September 2017: Y12 & Y13 lessons start
Half-term	Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2017 inclusive (return on Week 2)
Ends	Friday, 15 December 2017
PD Days	Monday, 4 September 2017 and Friday, 20 October 2017

Spring Term 2018

Starts	Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (return on Week 1)
Half-term	Monday, 19 – Friday 23 February 2018 inclusive (return on Week 2)
Ends	Thursday, 29 March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Starts	Monday, 16 April 2018 (return on Week 1)
(Bank Holiday)	Monday, 7 May 2018)
Half-term	Monday, 28 May - Friday, 1 June 2018 inclusive (return on Week 1)
Ends	Friday, 20 July 2018

..... and just in case, as we edge closer to winter and with all the talk of Tropical Storm Ophelia, here are the **Extreme Weather Procedures**

1. If extreme weather arrives overnight, the decision whether to open the school will be made in liaison with our site staff and the bus companies. In the event that the school will be closed for the day, a notice will go out through BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM), our texting service* and will also be posted on the school website. If no announcement is made, the school will be open. I am sure you will understand that our catchment is wide and diverse and any decision made about closure is in the interests of the health and safety of *all* of our students.

2. If extreme weather arrives during the day, the need to get children to their home villages and towns becomes pretty immediate. We very much take the advice of the bus companies over this - they are the ones out on the roads and aware of the road conditions and who will be responsible for getting the children home safely. As a large secondary school, in the event of a sudden need to close school, we will notify you via our texting service*, BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) and a notice on our school website. The local authority will also be informed.

We would be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children know what to do if we need to send them home early, with very little notice and while working parents may still be away from home - it would be useful if this can be discussed and agreed with your children. Often a relative, friend or neighbour can be called upon to help out until you are able to return home but this, of course, needs to be clarified in advance and your children made aware of where they should go.

*NB, our texting service is, of course, only as good as the information it contains, please ensure that we are provided with notification of any changes in your contact details.

Please note our new admin email address:

admin@oldburywells.com

Reminder from the Kitchen staff, please remember to top up your child's account at www.parentpay.com.

Alternatively students can top up with cash using the machine in the canteen. Following requests from parents, prices will be more clearly displayed on items for sale in the canteen.

