



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/update

26 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: General Updates and Important Information

As we approach the midpoint of the final half term, please see update information below on several key developments in school:

Summer Examinations. The final summer exam series has now been completed for all our Year 11 & 13 students. Well done to all, you have been amazing and we look forward to receiving results in the summer. Our focus now moves onto current Year 10 & 12 students who commence their end of year mock exam window. Good luck to all during what will be a busy but rewarding period for all concerned!

Change of school end of day finish. From September 2023, the government have stated that mainstream schools should deliver a school week of not less than 32.5 hours. Like many schools, this means that we need to look to extend our school day by 10 minutes per day to meet this requirement. From the start of next academic year, our school day will continue to formally start at 8:45am (with students expected on site by 8:40am) and will now finish at 3:15pm rather than 3:05pm. The extra 10 minutes will support an extended morning tutor time to continue to strengthen our strong personal development program, alongside adding 5 minutes onto our lunch time to ensure that student have extended time for a break and to join in any lunch time activities. All transport times will be adjusted in the afternoon by 10 mins to take this into account.

School Uniform. As we look towards September, we ask parents for their support with regards to school uniform. We know that over the summer many items of uniform are updated, parents should refer to the school website which gives clear guidance on uniform requirements (<https://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/uniform>). Although the majority of our students have the correct uniform and wear this with pride, at present we are having to highlight with some students, issues related to footwear which is of a trainer style and therefore not acceptable; inappropriate style and length of school skirts; alongside an increase in students having facial piercings or multiple earrings which are not acceptable. Our policy is clearly outlined on the school's website, we would ask all parents to look at the information carefully to ensure that all requirements are met.

SENCO. You will be aware that Mr White has moved to his new Deputy Head Teacher role at Belvidere school, with one of his previous responsibilities at OWS being that of SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator). We are currently in the process of appointing a full time, permanent SENCO in school, but am delighted to say that in the interim period we have secured the services of Mrs Shirley Anthony (who many of you will know as our previous SENCO), alongside Mrs Farr who is an experienced senior leader and who has a wealth of experience in the area of Special Educational Needs in schools. Both colleagues will work closely with Mrs Kenworthy, who will be parents first point of contact with any SENCO based issues (Lucy.Kenworthy@oldburywells.com). We will update you with further developments in the weeks ahead.

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National Strike Days. You will be aware that the National Education Union (NEU), have announced further National industrial action before the end of term. Two further national strike days have been announced for Wednesday, 5 July and Friday, 7 July. On these days, to ensure that scheduled mock exams and planned curriculum visits can take place, we will only be expecting those students who are involved in a mock exam or those on a scheduled trip, to be in school on these dates. All other students will be supported via Distance Learning in line with previous days where strike action has occurred – more details will follow shortly regarding this.

End of Term Arrangements. Our last day of the summer term will be **Friday, 21 July**. On this day school will finish early at **12:35pm** with all buses leaving the school site at 12:50. All school transport arrangements will be adjusted to reflect this change, all parents are asked to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place once students reach their home/drop off destination.

We will be keeping all families up to date with further developments in the weeks ahead, and as always thank all parents for their continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Tristham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee Tristham
Headteacher