



**Our Ref:** LTM/kmd/update

18 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: General Updates and Important Information for September 2024**

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

Early Finish on Friday, 19 July: A reminder that for students the school day will finish at 12:00pm on the last day of term tomorrow, with buses scheduled to depart at 12:15pm. Families have been asked to put arrangements in place for those travelling on buses to ensure that from drop off, onward journeys homes are secure; thank you for your support with this.

Staffing moving on: At this time of year, we say thank you and good luck to staff who are moving on, many to posts with leadership responsibilities which enable them to further build on their career to date.

A special mention to Mrs Warner (Deputy Headteacher) who moves onto her new role at Wolverhampton Girls High School after 22 years of service at OWS. Mrs Warner has been amazing, giving so much support to so many students, families and staff over the years. She embodies everything which is special about OWS, and having spent her whole career at OWS now has a wonderful opportunity to further positively influence the lives of others within her new school – thank you and good luck.

We also say goodbye to Mr Cook (English) who has been with us since 2015. Mr Cook has been a valued member of our English and Drama team in school and previously held a role as head of year; he will be missed by staff and students.

We also wish Mr Farish all the best for the new year. He is not leaving OWS, but will be involved next year with some work within our Trust and supporting developments at Meole Brace School in capacity as Assistant Headteacher; we wish him all the very best over the next 12 months.

Good luck also to other members of our team moving on. From our support team – Miss Roden, Mrs Yeomans, Miss Lea; staff who have worked with us on a temporary basis - Mrs Westbury, Mr Marshall, Mr Johnstone, Mrs Dunning, Miss Loewnau; and colleagues moving onto new positions - Mr Keenlyside, Mr Cherrington, Mr Szwarc. Thank you for all you have done to support students and staff during your time at OWS.

We will be welcoming new members to the team in September and we look forward to introducing them to you at the start of the new term.

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Newsletter: We will shortly be sending out the end of term Journal which captures brilliantly the range of activities, events and opportunities students have been involved with. Please spend time to take a look and use this to speak to your child about their involvement and commitment to try new things in the new year; there are some wonderful examples of the great work and opportunities students have supported.

Communication: Over the summer we will keep communication to a minimum, although will send out any important reminders when staff are in school on results days. A reminder that we use social media to give an insight into events in school, please look to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep updated with what's going on.

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 ([Uniform | Oldbury Wells](#)).

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.

We have had some questions regarding the type of school tie and the new tartan skirt. To confirm:

- School Tie: Years 7,8,9 - Lower school tie (purple); Years 10&11 - Upper school tie (grey).
- Skirt – The new style Trutex GST Gisburn Tartan Skirt is the compulsory skirt for Year 7 students from September 2024. All other year groups are asked to make the switch to this style when updating uniform. This skirt will then be the only option of skirt type from September 2025.

Return to School in September: We have the usual staggered start at the beginning of the new term to support everyone's return to school as outlined below:

- Staff PD days Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September & Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- Year 7&11 only Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September
- All student return Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September

Final Thanks: Can I use this opportunity to thank all our students, families, staff and school partners for all their hard work and commitment over the last academic year. I hope that everyone has a great summer and is able to take a well-deserved break to recharge ready for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully



**Lee Tristham**  
Headteacher