

August 2026

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students into our school community next week and begin an exciting new academic journey together.

We are delighted to highlight our A level and GCSE examination results. We are particularly proud of our GCSE outcomes, which are the highest in the school's history.

- 80% of Year 11 students gained a grade 4 or above in both English and Maths.
- 67% gained a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths, placing us among the top two performing schools in the city.

It has been a very busy summer as we prepare for the opening of phase 1 of the new school. While there have been some challenges, we are nearly ready to welcome students into the new building.

Further work will continue on site throughout the coming year as phase 2 progresses. This will affect vehicle access to the school, so we ask all parents and carers to read the following guidance carefully and follow the arrangements in place.

Year 7's first day: Friday 4th September 2026

To ensure that all students are fully briefed on the safety arrangements and how to move around the new building, we will operate a staggered start to the school year. Year 7 will be the only year group on school site on Friday 4th September 2026. We kindly ask that pupils arrive to school by 8.35am. Please note that pedestrian access to the school is via our Bennett's Road Cinder Path entrance only; the **Tamworth Road gate will not be open** due to building works. Arrangements regarding accessing the school from WB 7th September can be found overleaf. Please ensure your child knows their tutor group (we recommend bringing your postcard reminder if required).

As you will not have access to School Gateway in advance of Friday 4th September, we will provide pupils with a break time snack/drink and a free lunch on this day. Children can bring their own lunch and break time snack if they prefer. We will share guidance detailing how to get set up on School Gateway and our other parental apps (eg Arbor and ClassCharts) the week beginning 1st September. If you would like your child to purchase food from our canteen from Monday 7th September, you will need to ensure that money is on their account. We strongly recommend sending pupils with a packed lunch until you are set up on the system. Children in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to access their lunch entitlement.

Pupils will be dismissed from 3pm on Friday 4th September via your chosen 'getting home' route. Please ensure your child knows how they are getting home to avoid any confusion and we ask for patience and understanding at the end of the day whilst we ensure all pupils exit the school safely.

All students are expected in the correct, full school uniform from Friday 4th September onwards. We would like to remind you that only one pair of small, studded earrings are allowed, false nails/nail varnish is not permitted, unnaturally coloured hair and trainers are not allowed. Children will not need their PE kits on their first day. Further details about our uniform expectations can be found in

your welcome pack sent at the end of July. Finally, following the government guidance regarding mobile phones in schools, if your child wishes to bring their phone to school with them, these must not be 'seen or heard'. You can find further information on our mobile phone policy in your welcome pack.

Monday 7th September 2026

Year 7 students should arrive to school as normal by 8.35am. Please be aware that pedestrian access via Tamworth Road will be open from this day – please read the below information.

Access to the site (from Monday 7th September 2026)

Pedestrians: Students walking to school, or being dropped off outside the site, should enter via the Tamworth Road gate or the pedestrian gate from Bennetts Road South.

Please note: During the school day, pedestrian access for students and visitors will be via the Bennetts Road South gate only. The Sandpits Lane pedestrian gate is **no longer in use**.

Vehicle Access: We **strongly recommend** that parents and carers do not drive onto the school site to drop off or collect students. Parking is extremely limited while we share the area that will become our car park with the construction team. If driving onto the site is unavoidable, please follow the instructions below carefully to help us keep traffic moving safely.

Vehicle Access to site – drop-off and collection

Vehicles should enter the school site through the first gate on the left when approaching from Bennetts Road South. If approaching from Tamworth Road, this will be the third gate on the right.



Parents and carers must remain in their vehicle at all times while on site.

On entry, vehicles must turn right and follow the directed queue system. Parents and carers must remain in their vehicles throughout. During drop-off and collection times, vehicles must not turn left into the main school car park. Upon entering the site vehicles will be directed to take the second left as indicated below. There is a student pathway that is situated behind the red and white barriers.



We have very limited space for parents when collecting students at the end of the day. We will support families with a specific need to access the site where possible; however, if the junction at Bennetts Road South becomes gridlocked, we may need to move to a **no-vehicle site**. Please avoid driving onto the site wherever possible and do not arrive early for collection, as this can obstruct traffic on Sandpits Lane and Bennetts Road South.

If you need to collect a student during the school day for a medical appointment, please enter via the vehicle gate, turn right, remain in your vehicle and call reception to let us know you have arrived.

We are excited to welcome students back next week and look forward to beginning a successful new academic year in our new building. We anticipate that there will be teething problems in the early weeks we ask for your patience as we navigate these.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Ms E O'Connor
Headteacher