

10th July 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your continued support throughout another successful academic year. Together, as a Smith's Wood Academy community, we have continued to build on the significant progress made over recent years, ensuring that our young people benefit from a high-quality education alongside a wealth of opportunities that prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

This year has been particularly significant for our school following our full Ofsted inspection. We are incredibly proud that inspectors recognised the remarkable progress that has been made and confirmed that Smith's Wood Academy no longer requires Special Measures. This represents an important milestone in our journey and is testament to the commitment of our students, staff, parents and the wider community.

The inspection recognised the strength of our leadership and the ambitious vision that is driving continued improvement across the academy. Inspectors highlighted the positive culture that now exists throughout the school, noting that pupils are calm, respectful and happy, feel safe, enjoy coming to school and speak positively about the care and support they receive. They also recognised the significant improvements we have made in attendance, behaviour, safeguarding and inclusion, as well as the extensive opportunities available for students through enrichment, leadership and careers education.

We are especially proud that Ofsted recognised the dedication of our staff and acknowledged that the experiences and opportunities available to our students have been significantly enhanced. The report reflects the high expectations we have for every young person and the unwavering belief that every student deserves the very best education, regardless of their starting point.

Whilst we have made incredible progress over the last few years, there is no room for complacency. We remain driven by an unwavering ambition and determination to become the school of choice for our community. The staff and leaders at Smith's Wood Academy have a genuine passion for the Academy and the community it serves, placing our students at the heart of every decision we make. We are committed to continual improvement, recognising that sustained success is built through small, consistent gains over time. We will continue to invest in our people, resources, systems and opportunities to strengthen outcomes and ensure that every student receives the highest quality education every day.

I remain relentless in my determination to ensure Smith's Wood Academy continues to go from strength to strength. My ambition is for every child to be happy, safe, cared for and successful, and for every family to feel proud of their local Academy.

Thank you once again for your continued trust and partnership. Your support, alongside the dedication of our staff and the resilience of our students, has been instrumental in helping us reach this important point in the academy's journey. We look forward to continuing to work together as we strive to make Smith's Wood Academy the school of choice for our community.

Whilst academic success remains at the heart of everything we do, we are equally committed to providing opportunities beyond the classroom. This year, students have enjoyed a wealth of enrichment experiences, from sporting competitions and Duke of Edinburgh to trips, performances and leadership opportunities.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students have embraced these experiences. A particular highlight was our whole school production of **Grease**, our first in over a decade, which showcased the talent, commitment and teamwork of our students. To see more of the many achievements and memorable moments from this year, read our [SWA half termly newsletters](#) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday 13th July & Tuesday 14th July – Normal lessons will take place on both days.

Wednesday 15th July - Our annual Culture Day will take place on Wednesday. Students will follow their normal timetable, with lessons incorporating a cultural focus. Students are warmly invited to wear cultural dress to celebrate the day.

Thursday 16th July - Thursday is our Trips and Activities Day. Students will either be attending one of our planned trips or taking part in activities at school. This will be a non-uniform day.

Students who are in school should bring a pair of trainers, as they will take part in one physical activity session. Bringing PE kit is optional. The school day for students remaining on site will finish at **2.30pm**, when they will be dismissed. Supervised provision will be available until **3pm** for any students who need it. If your child requires this, please inform their Achievement Leader.

Students attending trips will be dismissed on their return, in line with the arrangements outlined in the information previously sent home. If your child is attending a trip, please ensure they are prepared for the warmer weather by bringing a sun hat, wearing sunscreen, and bringing a refillable water bottle.

END OF TERM

Friday 17th July is the final day of our school year, and students will **finish at 1.30pm**.

We will also be holding our annual **Sports Day**. Following the success of last year's event, we are looking forward to another fantastic day of competition and team spirit. Students should wear their full PE kit. Any student who has an issue with their PE kit should speak to a member of the PE team before the end of **Wednesday 15th July**.

Friday will also feature our **Grand Prize Draw**. Students who are in school on Friday will have the chance to win some fantastic prizes, including a TV, a laptop, Beats earbuds, and many more.

ATTENDANCE

Every student at this school, in line with the Government's expectations, is expected to maintain an attendance level of at least 96%. While it is appreciated that children are unwell from time to time and there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, please think carefully about taking your child out of school as persistent absence is proven to have a significant impact upon a child's educational attainment.

To give you an example of how your child's attendance can be affected:

- 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks off school
- 90% attendance across years 7 – 11 equates to half a year off school

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Since September 2013 holidays in term time have no longer been authorised unless they are for exceptional circumstances. This is now government law in partnership with the DfE. As you can understand this hinders progress of students due to the time missed from lessons.

UNIFORM

We want students at Smith's Wood to be proud to be part of our community. Students within our community are expected to always wear the correct uniform. Our pastoral team greets the students every morning to check they are prepared for the day. If a student is missing an item of uniform we do our best to support them by lending out our spare uniform.

Unfortunately, if a student is not dressed in the correct uniform and refuses to borrow our uniform they will spend time out of their timetabled lessons until they are dressed correctly. We hope you will support us in this by ensuring your child is fully prepared for the day, both in terms of uniform and equipment.

Our uniform is:

- *Black school blazer with school badge.*
- *Plain black V neck, long sleeved jumper. NO LOGOS.*
- *Plain white shirt with buttoned collar.*
- *Plain black tailored trousers or skirt (skirts must be of a reasonable length)*
- *Clip-on school tie - all students.*
- *Tights or socks - plain colour only.*
- *Sensible Shoes - black only. NO LOGOS.*
- *No Boots or trainers of any description.*
- *1 pair of stud earrings.*
- *No facial piercings are allowed.*

Further information around our uniform can be found on our website [Uniform-Policy-1-2025-2026.pdf](#)

EQUIPMENT

It is essential that all students have the correct equipment so they can learn. At Smith's Wood we have 'Ready to Learn' packs. Click the link [Ready to Learn packs](#) to see why we have them and what they include. All students were given a full pack for free. We expect our students to attend every lesson with a full 'Ready to Learn' pack. Students are responsible for replacing equipment as needed. All equipment can be purchased on Parent Pay. In KS4, a maths equipment set and calculator are required. We expect this equipment to be carried in an appropriate school bag.

Free School Meals

A reminder that from September 2026, the government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals. Children in households receiving Universal Credit may now qualify. This could mean a saving of approx. £495 per year per child on school lunches.

We recognise that this will make a meaningful difference to many households and help ensure that students are well supported each day.

In the spirit of ensuring that all families access the support available to them, we strongly encourage you to check your eligibility and apply if appropriate using the link below.
<https://edportals.solihull.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

HELP AND SUPPORT DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY

If you believe a child is at risk of serious harm or in immediate danger you should call the Police (999) or Children's Services.

- For children living in Solihull refer to 0121 788 4300, or out of hours 0121 605 6060.
- For children living in Birmingham refer to 0121 303 1888, or out of hours 0121 675 4806.

If the concern is around mental health/ suicidal thoughts please contact the GP or go to A&E. Alternatively, parents or students can self-refer to the following services, both of whom have crisis lines if you need to talk to a professional urgently:

Solar - [Solar - Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Forward Thinking Birmingham (<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>)

For other safeguarding issues or advice, there are a range of helplines listed on the school website under the safeguarding section:

<https://smithswood.co.uk/academy-life/safeguarding/>

RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Full details of the arrangements for the start of the new academic year will be shared with families by the end of next week.

I wish you all a pleasant summer and look forward to working with you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S. Huntington
Principal