Broadening Horizons to Aspire, Believe, Succeed

A: Clarkes Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 2BX
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W: www.phoenixcollegiate.org

14th July 2026

Dear parents/carers,

Re: End of Term Arrangements and September Information

As we come to the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. Working together, we have been able to provide our students with a wealth of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, and I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year.

This term has been particularly memorable with the official opening of our fantastic new 3G Pitch and Sports Block. These **outstanding facilities** will benefit both our students and the wider community for many years to come and reflect our continued commitment to providing the very best opportunities for our young people.

Throughout the year our students have excelled across many areas. Our Combined Cadet Force has continued to flourish, with successful recruitment events, adventurous training in Windermere and excellent participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We are also delighted to have achieved the School Games Platinum Award, recognising the breadth and quality of sporting opportunities available at Phoenix. Students have represented the school with distinction in athletics, cricket, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking and numerous other sporting competitions.

Our enrichment programme has gone from strength to strength. Students have enjoyed educational visits, work experience placements, rewards events, leadership opportunities, art exhibitions, cultural activities and many other experiences which help develop confidence, resilience and ambition beyond the classroom.

As we celebrate these successes, I must also address a disappointing issue from our wider community. During recent weeks **our school site has been targeted by a number of criminal acts**, including the theft of all of our Combined Cadet Force Mountain bikes, theft of site equipment including a tractor to ensure our sports field are fit to play, damage to school minibuses and deliberate fires being started on land at the edge of our school fields.

These selfish and senseless acts have a direct impact on our students and wider school community. Funding that should be invested in improving educational opportunities has instead had to be diverted towards replacing stolen equipment and repairing damage. If you have any information that may assist the investigation, I would urge you to contact West

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Midlands Police. By working together, we can help protect the facilities that belong to all of our young people.

Staff Changes

As with every school, the end of the academic year also brings a number of staffing changes. This summer we will be saying goodbye to a number of valued colleagues, some who are retiring, some who are moving on to exciting new opportunities, and others who are leaving following organisational changes within the school.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to every member of staff who is leaving Phoenix for their commitment, professionalism and the contribution they have made to the lives of our students. Many have served the school and our community for a considerable number of years and their dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Whilst we will be sad to see them leave, we wish them every success and happiness for the future. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming a number of new colleagues to The Phoenix Collegiate in September. I know they will receive a warm Phoenix welcome as they join us in continuing to provide the very best education and opportunities for our students.

End of term arrangements

As with tradition at the end of the term, **school will be closing a little earlier than normal on Friday 17th July** – students will finish at the following times:

- 12.10pm - Years 10 and 12 students
- 12.25pm - Years 7, 8 and 9 students.

Examination Results

GCE/Level 3 Results Date – **Thursday 13th August 2026**
Students will be able to collect their results in person on Results Day in August from **9.00am** until **12.00pm**. From the School Hall via main reception.

GCSE Results Day- **Thursday 20th August 2026**
Students will be able to collect their results in person on Results Day in August from **9.00am** until **12.00pm**. From School Sports Hall via Gordan Avenue.

If a student is unable to attend, there are three alternative options for receiving their results. These arrangements must be completed before we break up in July and can be found on the *school's website.*

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Looking ahead to September

As previously communicated, Phoenix will become a **phone-free school from September**. We believe this important change will maximise learning time, improve students' wellbeing and encourage positive social interaction throughout the school day.

Students will no longer be allowed access to phones during the day. If a student brings a phone, it should be turned off before entering site and will then be safely secured away during tutor time, to be collected at the end of the day. Any students arriving late will give their phone in on arrival and collect after the late detention at the end of the day. Spot checks will support this process and this will be supported by the behaviour policy. Students will continue to receive assistance from year teams should a call home need to be made during the school day, and parents will still be able to contact the school to pass messages to their child if required. By securely storing phones during the school day, students will still be able to use them safely for journeys to and from school. A very small minority of students use their phones as part of managing a medical condition (e.g. diabetes) and will have a care plan in place to support this continuing. Please complete the form here if you believe that this applies to your child: Phone Free Schools – Fill in form

Return to School

- Y7 - Wednesday 2nd September, on site by 8.30am - come through student entrance where you will be met and guided to the main hall.
- Y8 - Thursday 3rd September, arrive at 9.30am - come through student entrance and into Building B to tutor rooms.
- Y9 - Thursday 3rd September, arrive at 9.30am - come through student entrance and into Building A to tutor rooms.
- Y10 - Thursday 3rd September, arrive at 9.00am - come through student entrance and into Building A to tutor rooms.
- Y11 - Thursday 3rd September, arrive at 8.30am - come through student entrance and into Building A to tutor rooms.
- Y12 - Wednesday 2nd September, on site by 8.30am - come through student entrance, guided to canteen. Year 12 will not be in school on Thursday 3rd September and will return Friday 4th September.
- Y13 - Thursday 3rd September, on site by 11.30am - met at gate to Reception by Miss Morgan and Mrs Whittaker.

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Friday 4 September: All year groups attend as normal. *Further details are on our school website.*

Please ensure students arrive in full school uniform with the correct equipment and ready for a successful start to the new academic year.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum and Grouping Changes for 2026–27

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would like to share some important updates about our Key Stage 3 curriculum and grouping arrangements for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 from September 2026.

From next year, we are moving from two parallel bands to one linear structure with a number of teaching groups across the year group. This means that group names will look different from previous years. As a result, if your child appears to be in a different group, this does not automatically mean they have moved up or down. The structure itself has changed, so the new group labels are not directly comparable to the old system.

These changes have been made so that we can continue to deliver an ambitious and well-supported curriculum for all students. We have streamlined the curriculum model to make the best use of curriculum time, staffing and specialist spaces, while ensuring that all students continue to study a broad and balanced range of subjects in line with the National Curriculum.
At KS3:

- Maths groups will be numbered for clarity.
- Other groups will be identified by letters.
- In some areas, particularly creative subjects and PE, groups will be more mixed ability to support high-quality curriculum delivery.

Regardless of the group your child is placed in, all students will continue to have access to a challenging curriculum, strong teaching and the support they need to succeed. We believe these changes will help us to support students of all backgrounds and improve outcomes for all.
We have also made a change to PSHE. Rather than delivering PSHE through drop-down days, this will now be taught through the regular timetable. This means students will receive more consistent and regular learning in personal development alongside their subject curriculum.
We are also sharing a reminder of our new school week structure for 2026–27. Although the school day has been reorganised, no lesson learning time has been reduced.

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Following our recent consultation, I am pleased to confirm that the revised school day will be introduced from September 2026.

Day	Start	Finish
Monday to Friday	**8.15am Student Entrance** (Clarkes Lane Gate) **will open** for students - Students must turn phones off before coming onto the main site. **8.30am All students to be on site**	
Monday to Thursday Friday	8.35am - All students to move to tutor rooms 8.35am - All students to move to tutor rooms	3.15pm 2.30pm

Both Gordon Avenue and Clarke's Lane gates will open for students to leave

We look forward to welcoming students back in September under the new arrangements.

School Day 26-27

Monday to Thursday

	Movement bell (Bell rings) 8:35 to 8:40	Tutor / AM registration 8:40 to 9:10	P1 9:10 to 10:10	Break 10:10 to 10:30	P2 10:30 to 11:30	P3 11:30 to 12:30	Lunch 12:30 to 13:05	P4 13:05 to 14:05	P5 14:05 to 15:05	Tutor 15:05 to 15:15
Y7, 8 and 9	Movement bell 8:35 to 8:40	Tutor / AM registration 8:40 to 9:10	P1 9:10 to 10:10	Break 10:10 to 10:30	P2 10:30 to 11:30	P3 11:30 to 12:30	Lunch 12:30 to 13:05	P4 13:05 to 14:05	P5 14:05 to 15:05	Tutor 15:05 to 15:15
Y10, 11, 12 and 13	Movement bell 8:35 to 8:40	Tutor / AM registration 8:40 to 9:10	P1 9:10 to 10:10	P2 10:10 to 11:10	Break 11:10 to 11:30	P3 11:30 to 12:30	P4 12:30 to 13:30	Lunch 13:30 to 14:05	P5 14:05 to 15:05	Tutor 15:05 to 15:15

Friday

	Movement bell (Bell rings) 8:35 to 8:40	AM registration 8:40 to 9:50	P1 / PSHE 8:50 to 9:30	Break 9:30 to 9:50	P2 9:50 to 10:50	P3 10:50 to 11:50	Lunch 11:50 to 12:25	P4 12:25 to 13:25	P5 13:25 to 14:25	Tutor 14:25 to 14:30
Y7, 8 and 9	Movement bell 8:35 to 8:40	AM registration 8:40 to 8:50	P1 / PSHE 8:50 to 9:30	Break 9:30 to 9:50	P2 9:50 to 10:50	P3 10:50 to 11:50	Lunch 11:50 to 12:25	P4 12:25 to 13:25	P5 13:25 to 14:25	Tutor 14:25 to 14:30
Y10, 11, 12 and 13	Movement bell 8:35 to 8:40	AM registration 8:40 to 8:50	P1 / PSHE 8:50 to 9:30	P2 9:30 to 10:30	Break 10:30 to 10:50	P3 10:50 to 11:50	P4 11:50 to 12:50	Lunch 12:50 to 13:25	P5 13:25 to 14:25	Tutor 14:25 to 14:30

Important: The movement bell rings at **8:35am**. Tutor / registration starts at **8:40am**.

We hope this information is helpful and provides reassurance ahead of September. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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Uniform changes

Reminder that, as shared in earlier letters, students in Y9 will continue to wear a red jumper.
All students should return to school in September in full uniform
https://www.phoenixcollegiate.org/School-Uniform/

Equipment

All students should return to school in September with full equipment.

Students who do not yet own a scientific calculator will need to buy one for September.
The model that staff have been trained to use are **Casio FX-85GTCW+** and for those at KS4 doing higher tier and looking to do A level the **Casio FX 991 CW+.** They are available at most supermarkets but are generally found cheapest at online retailers.

School Catering Update

Please also find enclosed an important letter from our catering provider, Impact Food Group (IFG), together with the new school meal tariff for September 2026.

The letter explains the reasons for the changes to meal prices, including increased food and staffing costs, while the accompanying tariff provides full details of the revised prices.
We encourage parents and carers to read both documents carefully and thank you for your continued support.

Changes to free school meals eligibility from September 2026.

From September 2026, more children will be able to receive a free school meal. This is because FSM eligibility is expanding to include children from households receiving Universal credit.

Eligibility is not automatic – parents and carers not currently receiving FSM must apply.
Please complete an application form if any of these apply to you.

- Your household receives Universal Credit.
- Your household receives another qualifying benefit.
- Your child is in sixth form, and you think you are now eligible or were previously eligible.

How to apply
Apply here: https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schools-education/free-school-meals
Please apply ASAP and no later than 31st August 2026.

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If you are unsure whether to apply, please contact the Education benefits team or contact us directly and we will do our best to help.
Education benefits team education_benefits@sandwell.gov.uk
Phoenix Collegiate info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk

Key dates for the new academic year

- Tuesday 1st September – INSET Day (school closed to students)
- Wednesday 2nd September – Students return to school
- Friday 2nd October – INSET Day
- Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October
- Friday 27th November – INSET Day (school closed to students)
- Friday 18th December – End of Autumn Term

Further term dates are available on our *website* and will be shared again in September.

Finally, I would like to thank our governors, staff, parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. Most importantly, I would like to congratulate our students for their hard work, resilience and many achievements over the past twelve months. They continue to make us proud every day, and I wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully

Mike Smith
Head teacher