

15th December, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of Term 2025, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and encouragement in ensuring the success, wellbeing, and continued progress of our students at Arrow Vale High School.

The final week of term is incredibly important for us as a school community. It is a time for us to remain together, celebrate our achievements, and continue to uphold our high expectations. Lessons will run as normal right up until the end of term, as every second counts towards improving outcomes for our students.

Year 11 – Important Dates and Preparation

Year 11 students will sit their mock examinations at the end of January, and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the **Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13th January**.

Revision resources are available for all students, and Year 11 pupils can access specific materials via the Links section on the EduLink app. We strongly encourage students to build some revision into their Christmas break to maintain the excellent progress they have made so far this term.

End of Term Arrangements

- **Friday 19th December will be a half day**, with students leaving between **12:10pm and 12:30pm** following our final celebrations.
- **School will reopen for students on Tuesday 6th January at 8:30am**.

Friday's half day is in recognition of the hard work, resilience, and determination shown by our students this term. On this day, students may take part in our **Christmas Jumper / Christmas Item Day**. This could be a jumper, hat, or festive accessory, while maintaining our usual high uniform standards. A separate letter will follow with full details. We kindly request a voluntary £1 contribution, with all proceeds going to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Proud Moments This Term

There has been so much to celebrate across our school:

- Student leadership has been outstanding, with students supporting as mentors, providing classroom assistance, and leading charity fundraising efforts for worthwhile local organisations.
- Our Christmas Hamper Appeal has been truly inspiring. Students rallied together to collect much needed resources for our local food bank, which is run by a former Arrow Vale student. This support will make a real difference to many families over the Christmas period.
- The Arrow Vale Talent Show was a huge success, with the theatre filled during both lunchtimes as our courageous and talented performers took to the stage.

Attendance and Commitment

School attendance has taken a significant step in the right direction, and I would like to thank parents and carers for responding positively to this message. Your efforts to book appointments before or after school have been hugely appreciated, particularly during a time when many systems are under significant strain.

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Please continue to prioritise attendance — it makes a substantial difference to final outcomes and, in many cases, provides young people with greater choices for their future.

Staff attendance has also been exceptional. While many schools were forced to close due to the recent flu outbreak, our staff stepped up and worked creatively to ensure the school remained open, including the use of external cover when necessary. I am extremely proud of this commitment.

Enrichment, Experiences, and Life Skills

Arrow News is bursting with examples of the fantastic work and experiences shared by students and staff. This enrichment truly embodies our house system and sense of community.

One standout moment was leaving school at 4:30pm on Friday to see over 60 students cooking on open stoves in preparation for an upcoming camping and hiking expedition. It was a wonderful sight. One student's comment — *"How do we wash up if there's no dishwasher machine?"* — really made me smile. These experiences and life skills are just as important as the qualifications our young people achieve.

Uniform, Equipment, and Readiness for Learning

On return to school in January, please ensure that **hair colour, nails, and eyelashes** fully comply with our **uniform policy**. This will help us avoid unnecessary loss of learning time.

In support of organisation and learning, all students are expected to return with:

- A suitable school bag capable of carrying subject books
- A pencil case containing:
 - Black/blue pens
 - Green and purple pens
 - Pencils
 - Ruler
 - Eraser
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Scientific calculator

Staying Safe Online

As students spend more time online over the Christmas break, we kindly ask families to remain vigilant regarding social media use. Online exposure can carry risks, including inappropriate content, online bullying, and contact with unknown individuals. Please continue to talk openly with your child about:

- Keeping personal information private
- Reporting anything that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Limiting screen time where possible
- Using age-appropriate platforms and privacy settings

Working together, we can help ensure students remain safe, supported, and confident online.

Finally, thank you once again for your continued support throughout the term. I wish you and your families a **safe, restful, and joyful Christmas**, and I look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday 6th January**.

Yours sincerely



Mat Rash
Principal