

July, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a busy and successful time, and your partnership with the school has been a vital part of that.

I would also like to share some important reminders and updates ahead of the summer break and the new academic year in September.

Sports Fest – Thursday 16th July

Our much-anticipated annual Sports Fest will take place on **Thursday 16th July**. Students should attend school in their **PE kit**, and we ask that they bring a **water bottle**, **sunscreen**, and a **hat or cap** if needed.

End of Term – Friday 17th July 2026

The final day of term is **Friday 17th July**. Students will follow their normal timetable in the morning, culminating in a virtual celebration assembly to recognise achievements and reveal the winners of the **Arrow Vale House Cup**. Following the assembly, students will be dismissed at approximately **12:30pm**.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and would like a **packed lunch** for the day, please ensure they inform their **form tutor by Thursday 16th July**.

Start of Term – September 2025

The start dates for the new academic year are as follows:

- **Thursday 3rd September** – Year 9 and Year 12 only (8:25am start)
- **Friday 4th September** – All year groups (Years 9–13) in school (8:25am start)

Students will start back having 5 x 1 hour lessons per day.

Attendance Expectations

Excellent attendance remains a key priority at Arrow Vale. We aim for all students to achieve **at least 96% attendance** to support their learning and development.

We will continue to work closely with families to ensure that attendance does not become a barrier to success. Regular school attendance leads to greater academic progress and broader opportunities.

Behaviour and Uniform Expectations

Maintaining high standards in behaviour and appearance is fundamental to our school ethos and culture. Please take note of the following key expectations for September:

- Full school **uniform** must be worn correctly and smartly. Blazer, tie, formal shirt, trouser/skirt, formal shoes
- **Extreme hairstyles** (e.g. skin fades, patterns, or unnatural colours) are not permitted.
- **False eyelashes and acrylic nails** must be removed before returning to school.
- **Hoodies/tracksuit tops** are not to be worn in or to school – they will be confiscated if seen.
- **Facial piercings** are not allowed. Students may wear **one pair of earrings** in the lower earlobe only.

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Mobile phones must be **switched off and placed in bags before entering the school site**. If a phone is seen, it will be confiscated, and **parents will be required to collect it for it to be returned**.

We expect students to uphold our standards at all times, including **before and after school**, while travelling to and from the school site. Our community matter to us and we all need to support with this.

Sixth Form Dress Code

Our Sixth Form students are role models in the school community and are expected to dress in **smart, professional attire as follows**:

- Shirt or blouse
- Tie
- Trousers or knee-length skirt
- Smart shoes

This dress code reflects the professional environment we aim to foster.

EduLink One – Stay Connected

Please ensure you have activated **push notifications** in the **EduLink One app**. This is our key platform for sharing updates about your child's progress, homework, attendance, and important school events.

Safeguarding – Keeping Our Students Safe

Safeguarding is our highest priority. In our final assemblies of the year, students will be reminded of key safety messages for the summer, including:

- Staying safe around **water and railway lines**
- Maintaining **healthy relationships**
- Staying **safe online**
- Making **positive behaviour choices**

Our **school website** contains a wealth of safeguarding resources and links to external support services. We encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with these.

If you are concerned that a child or young person is at immediate risk, please contact:

- **Police:** 999
- **Worcestershire Family Front Door:**
 - Mon–Thurs (9am–5pm), Fri (9am–4:30pm): **01905 822666**
 - Out of hours: **01905 768020**

Free School Meals

The criteria for eligibility for free school meals is **changing** so that anyone receiving universal credit can claim. To check if your family may now qualify for free school meals **please scan the QR code**. We will be happy to help you with the application process if you need support.



Parent Information Booklet

The latest **Parent Information Booklet** is available on our school website. It contains essential information to help you and your child prepare for the new academic year.

I would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break. Thank you once again for your continued support—we look forward to welcoming all students back in September, ready to build on this year's successes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mat Rash'.

Mat Rash
Principal