

9 July 2024

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to write to provide clarity around the school schedule for the end of this academic year and September, and to clarify expectations and priorities for next year.

Week beginning 8th July sees our Enrichment Week with various trips and visits as well as an exciting programme of activities at Base Patchway. The following week we continue with normal lessons and have our year group Sports Days on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July. On Thursday 18th July we have our latest Presentation Evening. Details for all these activities and events have or will be sent in the next few days. This academic year finishes on Tuesday 23rd July at 12:00pm midday.

New Academic Year 2024 – 2025

Academic Year 2024 - 2025 begins with two staff INSET days on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September. Year 7 and Year 11 students only will return on Wednesday 4th September, with all remaining students returning on Thursday 5th September. These first few days are essential for setting up the academic year successfully so please ensure your child returns to school on the correct day.

In September we will continue with our recent focus on expectations around punctuality to both school and lessons, and insisting that mobile phones are not used in school at any time.

Uniform

In addition we will be tightening our expectations around uniform. We have worked with our students to identify specific skirts which are affordable, durable and that we will be insisting on in September. The Asda options are a 2 pack for £8 and the M&S ones 2 pack for £10-16, depending on size.

Grey Pleated Girls School Skirt 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/girls-school-skirts/girls-grey-plus-fit-pleated-school-skirt-2-pack/GEM984933.default.pd.html?cgid=D10M2G1C10>

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/girls-school-skirts/grey-pleated-girls-school-skirt-2-pack/GEM1091394-99584.default.pd.html?clr=Grey>



2pk Girls' Pleated School Skirts (2-18 Yrs) | M&S Collection | M&S (marksandspencer.com)

https://www.marksandspencer.com/girls-permanent-pleats-skirt/p/clp60100495?color=GREY#intid=pid_pg1pip12g4r2c4|prodflag_20%25%20off

https://www.marksandspencer.com/2pk-girls-pleated-school-skirts-2-18-yrs-/p/clp60677731?color=GREY#intid=pid_pg1pip31g4r1c2%7Cprodflag_submsg-From%20%C2%A35%20per%20item



These will be the only two skirts students will be permitted to wear. Leggings of any sort must not be worn. Students are allowed to wear tights of between 40-60 denier should they wish to do. Grey or black socks may also be worn – no white socks are permitted. Grey trousers or grey tailored shorts can be worn. White shirt or blouse, school tie and school jumper remained unchanged. Coats should be of one single plain colour and can be worn to school but must not be worn once in the school building.

Shoes must be black and preferably polishable. No boots, crocs or other coloured shoes are permitted.

The PE kit is unchanged from this year. Just a reminder that PE kit is required for every PE lesson your child has.

Uniform is essential to ensure socio-economic equity and also plays a key part in developing pride in our young people and a sense of belonging at Patchway Community School. I know you will support us in ensuring the highest standards are adhered to and thank you in advance of this.

Change of School Timing

You will remember that I wrote to you in June informing you of the outcome of our consultation to change the timing of the school day. Students must be in school by 08:25 and in Lesson 1 (formally tutor time) by 08:30 at the latest. The school day will finish at 15:00. We will be expecting all Year 11 students to attend lesson 7 until 16:00 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and would like all students to attend at least one enrichment extra-curricular activity either at lunchtime or after school. Lesson 7 for Year 11 will ensure they get every opportunity to gain the best outcomes possible in their GCSE's and enrichment activities build confidence, resilience, communication, leadership and a whole range of other traits and characteristics in our young people as well as providing additional opportunities to develop skills and enjoyment.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that other than a small amount of Drama teaching, we are fully staffed with teachers for September. This means that other than staff illness your child's lessons will be taught by specialist teachers. This together with our ongoing development of teaching and learning will ensure the quality of teaching continues to improve at Patchway.

Attendance

Attendance is a key priority at Patchway as it is at most other schools. It is essential your child attends school every day. Research shows very clearly that absence from school limits academic progress but also negatively effects confidence and anxiety. If your child is seriously ill or injured please do contact their Head of Year for further guidance otherwise please do ensure they attend every day. If you child is too ill to attend we use Studybugs to ensure communication of absence is easy for parents. The Studybugs app can be downloaded for free.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to welcoming students back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Stephen Kneller
Headteacher