

8 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Parents and Carers for their continued support. It has been a positive year for our school, and we are immensely proud of all our students and the progress they are making in their learning, as well as the improvements that we are seeing daily in and around the school. Our termly newsletter will be available next week, and I encourage you to look at all the fantastic things that we have been doing!

As we head into our last week of school before the long summer break, it feels a good time to reiterate and communicate our expectations regarding a number of key aspects of school life, as well as the arrangements for the start of the new term in September.

Week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> July sees our Enrichment Week with various trips and visits as well as an exciting programme of activities at Base Patchway and Sports Days. Details for all these activities and events have already been sent to parents. This academic year finishes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 12:20pm.

### **New Academic Year 2025-2026**

Academic Year 2025 - 2026 begins with two staff INSET days on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Year 7 and Year 11 students only will return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with all remaining students returning on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 uniform, punctuality to both school and lessons, and insisting that mobile phones are not used in school at any time.

### **Uniform and appearance**

Thank you very much for your support in this area. Please continue to support our [uniform policy](#) by checking that your child is well presented and that they have the correct grey school trousers, tailored shorts or skirt. We have worked with our students to identify specific skirts which are both affordable and durable. The Asda options are a 2 pack for £8 and the M&S ones 2 pack for £10-16, depending on size.

[Grey Permanent Pleat Girls School Skirt 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)[2pk Girls' Pleated School Skirts \(2-18 Yrs\) | M&S Collection | M&S](#)

These are the only skirts that students are 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. Grey or black socks may also be worn – no white socks are permitted. White shirt or blouse (with a top button), 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.

### **Staffing**

I am delighted to inform you that 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.

Additionally, there are some minor changes to staffing structures which has meant a change in role for Mr Reynolds who will now be the Head of Year 11 for next academic year.

### **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**