



**KING EDWARD VI
BALAAM WOOD
ACADEMY**

Educational excellence for our City

King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy,
New Street, Frankley,
Birmingham,
B45 0EU

Tel: 0121 464 9901/2

enquiry@bwa.kevibham.org
bwa.kevibham.org



**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

22nd December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer;

Year 11 – End of Autumn Term

We have reached the end of a successful first half term for our Year 11 pupils which is reflected in the Go4Schools data for Year 11.

Since starting school in September, pupils have been awarded over 4500 positive points for their behaviour. This is a fantastic achievement and one I am very keen to continue throughout Year 11.

Pupils sat their Mock Exams at the end of November, and we were impressed with the approach taken to these exams. Parents and pupils will be invited into the Academy on **Wednesday 17th January 2024** to collect their results and to discuss next steps with subject teachers. Our independent Careers Advisor will also be available to discuss Post-16 Options.

After the Christmas holidays we enter the most pivotal time in this year group's education. The work put in over the next 6 months will define their future. It is something that is said continually but that is because it is true. Education is the single greatest tool a young person can have in unlocking a positive future. Another phrase that is said continually is that the next 6 months will fly by, again, this is true. Pupils will find there is a different feel to school life as the months speed past; there will be a greater focus on the end result and a greater sense of comradery within the school community.

With this greater focus will come pressure and the school is here as always to support. We have already taken great strides in our use of the digital learning resources with usage more than doubling over the course of the term. Mock Exams will allow staff to better arrange the curriculum around the needs of the individual pupils. Moving forward we will be putting in place guidance on instilling self-belief and developing organisation skills so all pupils can succeed in their GCSEs.

As always, most of this year group have had an exceptional half term and they should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. I want to thank them for working so hard during these challenging times and I also want to thank yourselves as parents and carers for your ongoing support. I look forward to working together with you in the coming months.

Revision

Pupils are still expected to continue revising over the Christmas break however it is important to stress that pupils still need time to relax and unwind, we encourage pupils spending time with friends, listening to music, journalling, going for walks and participating in hobbies to encourage a work life balance.

Headteacher: Mr D. McGarvey



KING EDWARD VI
BALAAM WOOD
ACADEMY



KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM

Afterschool Provision

Attendance of after-school provision is vital to ensure that pupils continue to make positive strides towards their exams in the summer. Your child will have been provided with a personalised timetable highlighting the sessions your child is expected to attend, please note that these sessions are compulsory for all pupils.

Key dates for your diaries:

- Wednesday 17th January 2024 – Mock Results Evening
- February Half Term – In School Revision Sessions
- Week Commencing 11th March 2024 – Mock Exam Week 1
- Week Commencing 17th March 2024 – Mock Exam Week 2
- Friday 22nd March 2024 – Break up for Half Term
- Easter Half Term – In School Revision Sessions
- Monday 8th April 2024 – Pupils return to school.
- Tuesday 30th April 2024 - Macbeth Theatre Performance at The Alexandra Theatre
- Wednesday 1st May 2024 – Year 11 Parents Evening
- Monday 6th May 2024 – School Closure May Bank Holiday
- Week commencing Tuesday 7th May – GCSE's Begin
- Friday 24th May 2024 – Break up for Half Term
- May Half Term – In School Revision Sessions
- Wednesday 26th June – End of GCSE's – **Please note that no holidays are to be arranged before this date.**
- Thursday 22nd August – GCSE Results Day, times TBC

Uniform Expectations:

The school uniform rules must be adhered to by all pupils, and these are detailed in the pupil planner and on the school website. Ensuring that your child has the correct uniform, equipment and attends school on a regular basis ensures that your child can be as successful as possible at school and in support of our school ethos.

Attendance & Punctuality:

We know that pupils benefit from regular attendance at school and that it is key to an individual's social, emotional, educational progress and attainment. As you may realise, good attendance and punctuality are vital to your child's academic success.

At King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy, we aim that every pupil should strive for 100% but achieve at least 96% attendance in a school year in line with the national average. As a parent/carers you have responsibility for your child's attendance and punctuality, and we value your support.

The school day begins at 8.40am, pupils are expected to be punctual. Ongoing punctuality issues will be closely monitored, and I will be in contact with you to discuss any concerns.



**KING EDWARD VI
BALAAM WOOD
ACADEMY**



**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

The table below shows how an absence can very quickly make an impact.

If your attendance over the school year is...	. this is how many school days you have missed,	which is approximately this many school weeks,	which is this number of lessons missed
95%	10	2	50
90%	19	4	100
80%	39	8	200
70%	58	12	300
60%	78	16	400
50%	97	19	500

All medical appointments are to be arranged outside of school hours with the exception of Hospital appointments that cannot be re-arranged. All appointments will require medical proof (appointment card, hospital letter etc.)

I would like to thank you for all your support during this term, it has been much appreciated.

Yours faithfully
Miss Y Duckworth
Head of Year 11