



18th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe we are at the end of another academic year! I would like to thank you for your continued support and to commend your children, who have worked incredibly hard, and thrown themselves into the many challenges and enrichment opportunities available. They should be proud of their many achievements.

On Friday 21st July, will leave the school site earlier than normal to break for the Summer Holidays. Dismissal will begin at 12:25, with all students off site by 12:40.

All students entitled to a free school meal will have the opportunity to collect a cold meal as they leave school, the same as we have done previously with an early finish. If you collect your child from school, can we please ask that you ensure a prompt collection on Friday. Work will be available on MS Teams in the afternoon for students to complete. This will be set as an assignment, not a live lesson. In the morning, we will be rewarding students for their achievements this academic year during our reward assemblies.

Amongst the highlights we are celebrating this term include:

- The 'Rock Girls' team of Year 10 students, who took part in the trust-wide 'Real Deal' business challenge with Goldman Sachs. Their proposals, to help the global investment bank attract more young people into software engineering careers, won and at the end of term they enjoyed a tour of the company's offices in Birmingham.
- The talented singers from across Rockwood year groups, who joined the COREus choir for a wonderful performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire summer concert.
- Our budding sports stars, who have enjoyed a range of opportunities provided by Birmingham MAD.
- Our top performing students who were brilliant ambassadors for Rockwood Academy at a tennis event at Number 10 Downing Street in June, delivered by the Lawn Tennis Association and hosted by the Prime Minister's wife.
- The proud Rockwood finalists in CORE Education Trust's Mathaletes Challenge.
- Our high attainers, who have been working with external partners to excel in mastery of the English curriculum. The feedback we received demonstrated how incredible Rockwood students can be!
- We were also delighted to announce that three students have been selected for the CORE Leaders of Tomorrow programme, who eloquently articulated their views on a range of topics, including representation and climate change, at a special Trust event at the Priory Rooms earlier this month.
- Across academic lessons, sport, music, the arts, business and leadership, it has been wonderful to see the students take on new opportunities and thrive.

Given the above, and the busy curriculum and enrichment on offer, we appreciate that students are now ready for a break. I would ask that you encourage your child to use this time to rest and recharge, but to return in September with a good attitude to learning, excellent attendance and exemplary punctuality. Regrettably, these are not at the standards we have come to expect, and this is something we will be addressing more strictly, through sanctions and detentions, when we return next year. I detailed this also in a recent letter sent to all parents.

May I also ask you to take the opportunity to use the summer holiday to check items of uniform and PE kit. We expect all students to have a smart appearance and will regularly check that uniform is being followed. You can find details of our uniform and kit list on our website. Please note, we have a number of good quality pre-loved items that we can provide to families, should that be helpful.

A reminder that term starts on Tuesday 5th September, with all students expected to be in school on the 5th September. The start time of each year group will be confirmed in a letter that will be sent to all families during the holiday. Year 7 will of course be in school from 8:30am to ensure a smooth start to the new academic year. We also look forward to seeing Year 11 students on 24th August to collect their GCSE results – further details of this will also be sent to parents nearer to the time.

Until then, may I wish you and your families an enjoyable summer holiday.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Cooke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Cooke
Head of School