

21st July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you, and your families, are well.

The past couple of weeks have been very busy with lots of fantastic events taking place for students including trips to the Belgian battlefields, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, drop-down Personal Development days and our Sports Day at Berry Hill Park. It was fantastic to celebrate the achievements of students at our annual Awards Evening last Thursday.

Attendance and the end of term

Thank you for your continued support with attendance and ensuring your child(ren) is in school every single day. Attendance is important over this final week as we will be continuing to teach the curriculum until the final lesson of term. Students are being rewarded for every day they are attending school in our final 'Attendance Challenge' of the year.

The final day of term is Friday 25th July and, as usual, there will be an earlier finish for students who will be dismissed at 12:00. The final day will be a non-uniform day where students can choose to wear their own clothes for the day. Students should bring in a £1 donation in exchange for wearing non-uniform which will be donated to charity. Please support us in making sure that the clothing worn to school is appropriate.

The start of the next academic year

To ensure that students are supported as they start the new academic year we will be staggering the return to school for different year groups. This will allow us to ensure that all students have a full induction before they begin their lessons and are able to successfully begin the year.

The list below indicates the **first day** that each year group is returning to school; once students have started back on the day listed below, they will then be in school full time (08:30 – 15:00) for the rest of the term:

- Monday 1st September – Year 7 and Year 12 from 8:30 – 13:00
- Tuesday 2nd September – Year 11 and Year 13 from 08:30 – 15:00
- Wednesday 3rd September – Year 8 and Year 9 from 08:30 – 15:00
- Thursday 4th September – Year 10 from 10:30 – 15:00 (students can arrive from 10:15)

The school gates are open for students to arrive on site from 08:00. The school day begins at 8:30. It is important that students arrive at school on time. All students will be back on a full-time timetable from Friday 5th September.

Reminder: Uniform and equipment

Please see below for a reminder of the uniform and equipment changes that are in place **from September 2025**:

- If a student chooses to wear a skirt it will need to be a plain black **pleated** skirt which is **no more than 5cm** above the knee. Pencil style, tight fitting, stretch/lycra material skirts are not permitted. Plain black tights must be worn with a skirt, no socks or patterned tights.
- Students will need to have a bag which can carry A4 sized books and folders so that exercise books and resources can be brought home.

- As a minimum, students will need the following equipment with them in a pencil case:
 - 2 black pens
 - 1 red pen
 - 1 pencil
 - 1 ruler
 - 1 rubber

Please do make sure that you check the [uniform page](#) of our website before purchasing any uniform items to ensure they comply with our policy.

Upcoming Lockdown Drill – Important Information for Parents/Carers

As part of our commitment to keeping all students safe, The Garibaldi School will be carrying out a planned partial lockdown drill on Wednesday 23rd July 2025.

Lockdown procedures are a standard part of our emergency preparedness, much like fire drills. The aim is to ensure that our students and staff know exactly what to do in the unlikely event of a real emergency that requires them to remain inside the building for safety.

What is a lockdown drill?

A lockdown is used when there is a potential threat either inside or outside the school. There are two types of lockdown: a partial drill and a full lockdown. Any drill will be carried out calmly, with minimal disruption, and typically lasts only a few minutes.

Partial Lockdown: Students and staff practice moving to (or remaining in) a safe place, locking doors, and continuing normal lessons with restricted movement between spaces until the all clear is given in person by a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

Full Lockdown: Students and staff practice moving to (or remaining in) a safe place, locking doors, turning off lights, and remaining low and quiet until an the all clear is given in person by a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

How you can help:

- Reassure your child that this is a practice, like a fire drill.
- Let them know that their teachers will guide them and that there is no danger.
- Encourage them to take it seriously, stay calm, and follow instructions.

Please avoid contacting your child during the drill. If this were ever a real event, we would provide accurate updates via our usual communication channels.

If your child needs additional support around this drill, please contact their Head of Year and we will ensure they are supported appropriately.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Cassidy
Head Teacher