



August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some well-deserved time together. As we prepare for the start of a new academic year, I am delighted to welcome our pupils and families back to Smithills School.

We begin this year following some of the best examination results our school has ever achieved. These results reflect the hard work and determination of our pupils, the dedication of our staff and, importantly, the support and collaboration of our parents and carers. Thank you for the part you have played in this success.

Our ambition is to build on this together. At Smithills, 'Success for All' means having the highest expectations of every pupil, of their learning, behaviour, character and aspirations. Just as importantly, we want our young people to have high expectations of themselves. Success requires hard work, focus, resilience and making the right choices every day. Strong GCSE results open doors to further education, apprenticeships and employment, giving our young people greater choice and the foundations for a bright and successful future.

### Return to School – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

We look forward to welcoming pupils back on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Please note the arrangements for the first day:

- **Year 7:** Arrive at **8.30am** and go directly to the Main Hall.
- **Years 8, 9 and 10:** Arrive at **9.30am**, enter via Middle Drive and go straight to Session 0.
- **Year 11:** Arrive at **9.30am**, enter via Middle Drive before lining up for assembly.

From Thursday onwards, all pupils should arrive promptly and be ready to start school at 8.40am. A free breakfast is available to all pupils from 8.00am, and we encourage pupils to take advantage of this.

### Uniform and Appearance

Our expectations regarding uniform and appearance remain unchanged. We expect every pupil to arrive each day looking smart and ready to learn. Full school uniform must be worn at all times. A school blazer and school bag are compulsory.

Please ensure that your child also follows these expectations:

- Footwear must be appropriate and completely black.
- False nails and nail varnish are not permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted. Pupils may wear one small stud in the lobe of each ear. No other jewellery is permitted, with the exception of a wristwatch.
- Jersey tops and hoodies are not permitted and should not be brought to school.
- If pupils require an additional outer layer, they should wear a suitable outdoor coat.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring these expectations are met from the very first day. Clear and consistent standards help us maintain the calm, purposeful and professional environment our pupils deserve.

### **Ready to Learn**

All pupils should bring their equipment pack to school every day so that they are fully prepared for learning. Please check your child's equipment before the start of term. If they have used or lost any items, please ensure there is sufficient money on their school account to purchase the necessary replacements.

Being ready to learn may seem like a small thing, but arriving on time, in the correct uniform and with the right equipment allows pupils to begin every lesson positively and make every minute of their education count.

### **Mobile Phones – On Site; Out of Sight**

Our expectations around mobile phones also remain unchanged. Mobile phones must not be seen or used anywhere on the school site between 8.40am and 3.15pm.

Our message to pupils is simple:

#### **On Site; Out of Sight.**

This expectation helps pupils remain focused on their learning, reduces unnecessary distractions and supports positive interaction with their peers throughout the school day. We ask for your full support in reinforcing this expectation with your child.

### **Family Handbook**

Further information about school routines, expectations, support available to pupils and what your child will learn over the coming academic year can be found in our Family Handbook; this is available on the school website. I would encourage all families to take some time to read it together before the start of term.

We have much to be proud of at Smithills, but we are not complacent. The culture we create together, the standards of behaviour we expect, the ambition we have for our pupils and, importantly, the aspirations they develop for themselves, will determine what we achieve next.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I am excited about the year ahead and confident that, by pupils, staff and families working together, we can build on our recent successes and ensure that every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to Smithills.

### **‘Success for All’**

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Dewse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'C' and a distinct 'D'.

C. Dewse  
Headteacher