

King George Avenue
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 5HS

0115 9303724

19th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re – NEW TERM

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. May this Christmas be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments spent with loved ones. We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming students back for the start of the new term. Please take note of the following important information:

1. Term Start Dates and Times

Year 11: Monday, 8th January at 08:25

Year 7: Monday, 8th January at 09:15

Year 8: Tuesday, 9th January at 08:25

Year 9: Tuesday, 9th January at 09:15

Year 10: Tuesday, 9th January at 10:00

2. Uniform Expectations

We would like to remind parents and students about the importance of adhering to our school uniform policy. A neat and proper uniform not only instils a sense of pride in our students but also creates a positive and focused learning environment. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in the correct uniform each day, students who do not will be provided with the necessary items from our uniform store before they are able to access their lessons. A link to our uniform policy is below which provides further information regarding what is and isn't permitted. The most common uniform misdemeanors include incorrect footwear, branded jumpers and inappropriate length skirts.

<https://www.oiea.co.uk/key-info/uniform>

We appreciate your support in ensuring that students are well-presented in their uniforms, including the appropriate footwear and accessories. Piercings are still not permitted and are confiscated on sight once the school day has commenced (with the exception of stud earrings). Bracelets are not allowed due to the practical nature of many subjects and students are only permitted to wear a single ring on each hand.

3. Punctuality and Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for academic success. We encourage all students to arrive on time for the start of the school day, as each moment of learning is valuable. Student must arrive on site no later than 08.25 in order to be lined up ready for 08.30 roll call. School gates open at 08.15 for students to enter and prepare for the day.

If your child is unable to attend school, please notify the school office as soon as possible by emailing attendance@oiea.co.uk

4. Equipment

To support excellent teaching and learning, we expect all students to come to school with the equipment that they need to learn. The basic equipment that your child will need is:

- Black pen x 2
- Red pen
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- 15cm ruler
- White board marker (black)

All students will be expected to bring a bag to school every day. This bag must be big enough to hold:

- Pencil case
- Bottle of water
- A4 size exercise book
- PE kit

5. 2023/2024 Key Dates

- Half Term 3: 8 January 2024 to 16 February 2024
- Half Term 4: 26 February 2024 to 28 March 2024
- Half Term 5: 15 April 2024 to 24 May 2024
- Half term 6: 3 June 2024 to 23 July 2024

INSET Days

- Wednesday 31st January
- Monday 6th May (Bank Holiday)
- Friday 28th June

ADVANCED NOTICE: The 2024-2025 Academic year will start on Wednesday 4th September.

Please ensure you plan any family holidays around these dates as good attendance is essential if students are to fulfil their potential.

6. Goodbye, thank you and hello

Several of our colleagues are leaving OIEA this week and it would be remiss of me not to thank them for their hard work and efforts during their time here. The following leave with our very best wishes.

- Miss Fitzpatrick (Science) who is returning home to London to be closer to family
- Mr Duber (Humanities) who has secured employment elsewhere after finishing his fixed term contract.
- Miss Kiddle (Science) whose fixed term contract has come to an end.
- Miss Smith (Art) who is crossing the educational divide and becoming a primary school teacher.

The blow of losing such brilliant members of staff is softened by the quality of new staff arriving. Please join me in welcoming:

- Mrs Richardson (Subject Leader for Art)
- Mrs Cole (Subject Leader for Geography)
- Mr Cook (Standards and Progress Leader in Science)
- Mr Smith (Science Teacher)

7. Importance of a Positive Start

A positive start to the new term sets the tone for the entire term. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child is ready and excited to engage in the learning opportunities that the new term brings. To help secure a sharp start, students will be undertaking an orientation program when they return to ensure key routines are understood, practiced and perfected. Behavior at OIEA is a part of our taught curriculum.

We would also like to remind you that students are not permitted to use or access their phones or smartwatches at school, this includes contacting parents under any circumstance. Phones / smartwatches are confiscated if they are seen or heard and are returned after their same day detention in the first instance. Parents are required to collect items for repeated incidents.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a successful and productive term ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via reception@oiea.co.uk

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,



Mr S Leach

Principal