

12 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: January 2026 Updates / End of Term Information**

Thank you for your support and feedback this term. We constantly review the information we receive from students and families to make improvements to the school. Rather than send you information in separate letters about updates for January 2026, I am condensing this into one letter so that all families know what changes we are making. I am also taking this opportunity to introduce the 'direction of travel' for September 2027 in some areas.

**End of Term Information**

A reminder that we finish the term at 3:15pm on Thursday 18 December 2025. All families are then welcome in the Minster for our carol concert, which will take place from 7pm that evening.

We know that Christmas is a challenging time for a number of our families. If you need to contact the school with any safeguarding emergencies over the holidays, you can do so by contacting [safeguarding@queenelizabeths.com](mailto:safeguarding@queenelizabeths.com). The inbox will be monitored during the holiday period by a member of the senior leadership team.

**Christmas News**

We've had over 45 shoeboxes donated by tutor groups for local families which were taken to the Minster earlier this week. These boxes are filled with gifts and food to make Christmas this year a happier time for less fortunate members of our community. If you know a family who might benefit from a shoebox, please contact Mr Oldfield (Assistant Headteacher): [Oldfield@queenelizabeths.com](mailto:Oldfield@queenelizabeths.com).

**Uniform for September 2026.**

The school is committed to complying with the [DFE uniform guidance](#), which focuses on reducing the number of branded items to reduce the overall cost of uniform for families. From September 2026, the following changes will take effect:

1. Students entering year 9 will wear plain white shirts rather than the existing striped shirts. Students in year 10 and year 11 will be able to wear either the striped shirt or a plain white shirt as part of a 'transition year'.
2. The school blazers and school ties will remain the same. Over time, all new blazers will bear the same colour logo rather than the specific house colours. Ties will continue to retain the house colour schemes.
3. PE kit will change so that we allow black football style shorts/loose fitting track pants (with cycling shorts worn as an under layer if preferred). Skorts will no longer be an option. The PE T-shirt will be branded with our logo and house colours. The Tech top will be available to buy as an additional item but will not be compulsory. Full guidance will be published on our website in the new year and we will notify you when this is ready.

**Homework in years 9-11**

We have listened carefully to the feedback of families about homework. From January 2026, we will make a small change so that we increase our emphasis on rewards, and so that only one homework detention can be set per subject per week. Members of teaching staff must tell a student in person that they are setting a detention and issue a reminder that a detention will be issued for incomplete or substandard work. Longer-term, for September 2026 we are proposing a move to 'question and answer' format in the Knowledge Organisers with some project-based work for creative and practical subjects in years 9-11. These will be linked to the curriculum and support preparation for GCSE study. We will publish more information about plans for September 2026 in the new year.

**Rewards**

This term we have introduced participation badges. These are given for taking part in various aspects of school life and allow badge holders to access the 'VIP lane' in the restaurant. If your child has a participation badge, please encourage them to wear this with pride on their blazer lapel!

**Mobile Phones**

We are pleased to announce that we will become part of the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' movement from September 2027. This will involve dialogue with our families about the benefits of limiting smartphone access for teenagers. You can find out more about the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' movement <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>. To further disincentivise phone usage in school, from January 2026 if students have their phone confiscated in school, this will result in an automatic after-school detention.

**Behaviour procedures**

From January 2026, we will issue after-school detentions (ASD) for two subject removals in a week. A very small proportion of students receive these removals but as part of our commitment to ensuring that all children can learn without disruption, it is important that we take this step to further disincentivise disruptive behaviour. Students with additional needs will of course continue to receive reasonable adjustments and support in the classroom from teachers.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



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