



30 September 2026

Dear parents/carers

We have had a really positive start to our new school year. Our Year 7 and 12 students have settled quickly, building new friendships and rising to the new challenges they are facing. I use opportunities every day to walk around the school, and it is lovely to see the level of focus in lessons and to hear students discussing their learning as we seek to embed oracy across the curriculum.

As always, our students have been busy outside of lessons as well with highlights including our Geography A-level trip, the Duke of Edinburgh gold expedition and the cross-country, football, netball and rugby tournaments that we have been hosting over the last couple of weeks.

I want to say a particularly 'thank you' to the many students that supported our recent Year 6 Open Evening. It was a fantastic and uplifting evening, and your children did us proud. We work hard to offer the best education that we can, and it felt like this was accurately captured in the event.

We have been delighted to see a significant impact already of our new approach towards smartphones. It has been lovely to see students making great use of their social time, playing sport, Uno, or simply chatting with friends. Our teachers are reporting a higher level of focus in lessons, and our pastoral team have seen a dramatic drop in the number of incidents relating to social media and phone use outside of school. Thank you for all your support at home with our new policy – the positive benefits are significant.

New Deputy Headteacher appointment – Ms Suzie Green

In my last letter, I announced that Ms Megeney will be retiring at the end of this academic year. The role was advertised nationally, and we attracted a strong field. I am thrilled to announce that following a gruelling two-day interview process, Ms Green has been appointed to this role from September 2027. Many of you will know how effectively Ms Green has led our sixth form over the last 5 years, and we are excited to see the even wider impact of her future work. The systems and culture that she has created in our sixth form are well embedded and we are absolutely confident this legacy will continue.

Further information will be shared in due course regarding the leadership of the sixth form during Ms Green's upcoming maternity leave, and the appointment of a new Head of Sixth Form in preparation for next year.

Attendance

A reminder for parents and students that all absences need to be reported to the school, with the reason for the student's absence before 8:40am.

Where possible please try to arrange medical appointments outside of school time. We appreciate that this is not always possible and so it is important that if a child does need to leave during the school day for an appointment - let us know and ensure the student mentions this to their teacher at the start of the lesson so they can be released at the appropriate time. Please then drop your child back to school after their appointment so that they do not further miss out on their education.





Please see the below infographic for when to keep students off school. Further guidance can be found here - [NHS guidance sheet](#).

HOW ILL DO CHILDREN NEED TO BE TO NOT GO TO SCHOOL?



For further guidance see NHS website www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/



Parking – Green Lane

We fully recognise that parking on Green Lane is a challenge for parents/carers and that school drop offs and pick ups are difficult. Sadly, there is little we can do about this at present. However, can I request that we remain mindful of local residents and avoid blocking driveways.

Post 16 Open Evening – Thursday 15th October (5-7pm)

This is a reminder that on Thursday 15th October we will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening. This is a great opportunity for students and parents/carers to find out more about our fantastic Post 16 offer. Further details can be found in the parent letter here - [Post 16 Open Evening](#). We have an early finish on the day of 12.45pm for students. I look forward to meeting with many of you on the evening.

Kind regards

Mr D Bedford
Headteacher



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