



5 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your children enjoyed a restful and sunny half term break and that all of Year 8 are ready to take on the final half term of this academic year. We are looking forward to an exciting and action-packed few weeks for our Year 8 students, with a fantastic range of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

I am writing to you about the key upcoming things for this half term, to provide specifics ahead of the eagerly anticipated Drayton Manor trip next Friday, 12 June, and also to notify you of some forthcoming set changes.

Summer 2

This half term's PSHE programme in Tutor Time will focus on Mental and Physical Wellbeing, Pride Month and Digital Literacy, supporting students' personal development alongside their academic progress.

In addition, we have launched the new NLS Attendance World Cup, where tutor groups will compete for the title of 2026 champions and the chance to win a Pizza Party reward. This competition is just one of many factors contributing to the College Cup competition, which celebrates attendance, achievement, teamwork and positive contributions across the school community. The trophy is in pride of place in Student Services and Year 8 have many opportunities this half term to help their College to come out as the winners.

Highlights this half term include the VIBE drama production of *The Girl Who Loved Books* on 1 July, our Summer Concert on 7 July, the Year 8 Maths Bee, and Sports Day on 14 July. Students will also have opportunities to develop leadership skills through applications for Marketing and International Leader roles. We are excited to see so many students taking part and showcasing their creativity, teamwork and sporting talents.

Drayton Manor Day Trip, Friday 12 June

We are looking forward to our Drayton Manor trip. For those students who will remain on site, they will be placed into two groups, and attend lessons with subject staff.

For students attending the trip:

Students will attend school at the usual time and report to the main Sports Hall in PE for 8.40am. We expect to return at 4.00pm, so please make arrangements for your child to be collected or go home at that time.

Non-school uniform can be worn, and students need to bring either a packed lunch or money for purchasing food. Students are of course responsible for any monies or valuables that they bring. Thinking ahead to the weather; students will need to bring a hat, sun cream and water with them.

Whilst we are on school site, the mobile phone policy will remain in effect, but once we leave site, students are permitted to use mobile phones if they wish to do so. Students will remain in groups of at least four during their time at the theme park, and we will ensure within each group there is at least

one mobile device. Each group will have the number of the school issued trip mobile phone, which will be carried by staff at all times, should they need it.

Staff will be moving around the park site to supervise the students during the course of the day.

In terms of medicine, parents/ carers must acquaint themselves with the policy here: [Link to Policy on Supporting Students with Medical Needs](#). Parents/ carers will need to ensure they pass on all medicines (prescription or over-the-counter ones) with a copy of the Parental Agreement (consent) form found on page 7 to me, when they arrive at school.

On Wednesday during tutor time, I will be getting together all of the students to talk them through the plan for the day. We will also take this opportunity to read a code of conduct to the students, so that everyone knows the exemplary behaviour that is expected of them.

I hope that the students are looking forward to the trip as much as I am.

Forthcoming changes

During this half term, we will be starting to look ahead to Year 9. Year 9 is a key moment in your child's journey through the school, as we start to challenge the students to really step up to the plate and begin their transition towards their GCSEs.

As part of this, we have conducted a review of progress and groupings, which will result in some students moving teaching groups or tutor groups. This is carefully considered to support students' individual progress as well as the year group as a whole.

I will be contacting the parents/carers of all those affected during the course of next week. The aim is that these set and tutor group changes can take effect from Monday 22 June. This will give students the opportunity to become accustomed to the change before returning in September.

This is a necessary process to enable this year group to achieve as much as possible, and I really appreciate your support.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support of the newly updated Mobile Phone Policy that came into effect this week. This has been a very positive change to the school environment, and Year 8 have adapted to the change smoothly. I know that this is because of the messaging that students have had in school, but also the way it has been reinforced at home. Thank you.

As you have read, there is a great deal to come in this half term, and I am excited to see all that Year 8 are capable of.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Piper
Assistant Headteacher – Year 8 Lead