Friday 6 November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we welcome the Year 7 students back after the half term break, we reflect on the fact that they are now eight weeks into their North Leamington School journey. During these eight weeks they have been navigating new teachers, new classrooms, and a new layout to their school day. They have been learning new skills, as well as making new friends, and developing the resilience and flexibility they will continue to need throughout their lives.

Tutor Time
This half term tutor time tutor sessions will cover Digital Literacy, an International Schools Project, Anti-Bullying, as well as Numeracy and Finance. These sessions will provide a rich and varied section to our tutor time curriculum, allowing students to focus in on a range of areas and skills development.

Subject: Introducing Hooked! – our new Year 7 & Year 8 book club
Our English department are excited to launch Hooked!, a new book club for our Year 7, and Year 8, students designed to spark curiosity, encourage reading for pleasure and help young people discover books they genuinely love.

Reading plays a vital role in young people's development, both inside and outside the classroom. It supports progress across the curriculum, strengthens vocabulary and communication skills, develops imagination and critical thinking, and helps students to build their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Just as importantly, reading can provide enjoyment, relaxation and an opportunity to explore different perspectives and experiences. At school, we continually encourage our students to make reading a regular part of their lives, not simply as a tool for academic success, but as a valuable habit that can enrich them well beyond their time in education. We would love parents and carers to support us in this by encouraging reading at home, talking to their children about what they are reading and, wherever possible, helping them to make time for reading for pleasure. Even a little encouragement can make a real difference in helping young people develop a lifelong love of books.

Our motto is simple: Try a story. Share your thoughts. Find your next favourite.

Taking place every four weeks during Thursday break time in the school library, Hooked! will give students the opportunity to explore a different book in a fun, relaxed and welcoming environment.
At each session, students will read the opening chapter of a new book together before sharing their thoughts, discussing their predictions and deciding whether they would like to continue reading. Copies of the featured book will then be available in the library for students to borrow if they want to find out what happens next.

To add an extra element of excitement, we will be running a £10 Amazon voucher competition at every session. Students who read the rest of the featured book can submit a 200–300 word review covering what they thought of the book, who might enjoy it and whether they would recommend it. The student who writes the best review will win the voucher.
Our aim is to make reading a shared experience: an opportunity to discover new authors, exchange ideas, develop confidence and enjoy the pleasure of getting lost in a good story. Whether your child already loves reading or is still searching for the right book, they will be equally welcome.

Club details
Who: Year 7 and Year 8 students
When: Every four weeks, during Thursday break time
Where: The school library

Planned session dates

- Thursday 12 November 2026
- Thursday 10 December 2026
- Thursday 21 January 2027
- Thursday 25 February 2027
- Thursday 25 March 2027
- Thursday 6 May 2027
- Thursday 10 June 2027
- Thursday 8 July 2027

We hope Hooked! will help more of our students discover the excitement of reading, develop positive reading habits and share their enthusiasm with others. We would love to see as many Year 7 students as possible getting involved. Thank you for your continued support in helping us foster a lifelong love of reading.

Online Safety
Keeping children safe online is an important priority because young people face an increasing range of online risks. Access to social media and similar technology is a huge challenge for young people and I would ask that you please work with your children regularly to help them to navigate this aspect of their lives. Social media websites do all have age restrictions and this is to protect young people from spaces that they are not yet able to manage. Your support with managing your child's social media use including WhatsApp group messaging is very much appreciated. With this in mind we would like to make you aware that we have information that there is a WhatsApp year 7 group that has some students being unpleasant to others. We take this very seriously and would like to remind students that students under the age of 13 should not be using the platform. Where we are able to we will alert parents as well as address with those students involved.

We will continue to educate children about the benefits and risks of the online world; however, we would also ask that parents monitor this closely at home in conjunction with our messages.

Plenty of useful information is available on the school website including the Thinkuknow Internet Safety content. This, and more, can be found in the Online Safety area on the school website within the Safeguarding tab. There are also a range of online safety newsletters and parent guides which may be of interest also, November Online Safety Newsletter. This forms only one part of the new challenges that your child is beginning to meet.

Navigating teenagers can be challenging for parents and carers. There are some upcoming parenting sessions that you may wish to access and the attached flyers have more information.

Upcoming events:

- 11 November Remembrance Service
- 16-20 November Supporting Anti bullying week culminating in Odd Socks Day on 20 November
- 16-20 November - College Assemblies
- Christmas activities:

2 December 2 Winter Music Concert
11 December Christmas Jumper Day

This term promises to be full of valuable experiences for our Year 7 as they continue to immerse themselves in all that North Leamington has to offer.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Barley-Morey
Assistant Headteacher – Head of Year 7