



30 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of January, with just two weeks remaining of this half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has already been an excellent start to the new year and to share a few updates with you. The first four weeks of term have been vibrant, purposeful, and exciting across the school. It has been a genuine pleasure to see such consistently high standards of behaviour, engagement, and enthusiasm from our students. Classrooms, corridors, and social spaces have been full of positive energy, and students have returned to learning with focus and maturity.

I have had the privilege of leading all assemblies this term and even after many years of doing so, these moments never fail to remind me what an exceptional group of young people we have. It is a true privilege for us as educators to play a small part in supporting students on their journey towards adulthood. Whether it is our Year 7 students, who have completed their first autumn term so successfully and are now halfway through their first year of secondary school, or our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are preparing for their final mock examination window next week and the last few months of their school careers, the excitement, determination, and desire to do their very best is palpable. Just as importantly, students are clearly enjoying their time at school, which is something we value deeply.

Over the past few weeks, it has also been a pleasure to welcome parents and carers of students in Year 8 and Year 12 to Parents' Evenings. Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback you shared; it is invaluable in helping us ensure we continue to move the school forward in the right direction. I am also extremely grateful for the personal messages of thanks that many of you have shared with individual members of staff. I always make sure these are passed on and they are genuinely appreciated. A small number of parents have requested reminders of key resources and systems used to support students. Please see the information below, which we hope will be helpful.

1. [Curriculum Overviews and Learning Journeys](#) - Explore what your child is learning across subjects and how topics link together over time
2. [Exam Information](#) - Find relevant timetables and guidance, particularly useful for those with students in Years 10, 11 and 13
3. [SEND Support](#) - Access resources and information to help support students with additional needs
4. [Safeguarding Information](#) - Particular support on navigating online safely, a key topic in today's world. January's newsletter has some helpful information on general cyber security and platforms of Instagram & Snapchat.

I am aware that there is currently a great deal of discussion at a national level, including commentary from government and the Department for Education, regarding school practices and expectations. Please be reassured that we take the time to carefully digest all guidance before making decisions that are right for our school community. In that context, Ms Jones will be sending out a short survey next Friday to gather your views as we review and refine our mobile phone expectations in line with new guidance. Your feedback is important to us, and I would strongly encourage you to take part.

Thank you as always for your continued support and partnership - it makes a real difference. As we move into the final fortnight of the term there is much to be proud of and much to look forward to. I remain incredibly thankful for our students, staff, and families and for the positive, supportive community we share.

Best wishes.

Mike Lowdell
Headteacher