Friday 6 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children had a lovely half term break. It has been fabulous to welcome Year 9 back into schools to begin what will prove to be another busy half term. This half term is stacked with events every year, and Year 9 have a great deal to look forward to.

As we move through November, we will be marking Remembrance Day on 11 November, taking time to reflect and remember those who have served and sacrificed. I have really enjoyed seeing our Year 9 Charity and Community Leaders out and about around school, selling poppies in aid of the British Legion. From 16–20 November, we will be supporting Anti-Bullying Week, promoting kindness, respect and positive relationships across our College community. The week will culminate in Odd Socks Day on Friday 20 November, when students are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate individuality and the importance of embracing our differences. During this week, we will also be holding our College Assemblies, providing opportunities to bring students together and reinforce our college values. We will check in on the College Cup, to see who has taken an early lead and also pitch to students the first College Attendance Challenge of the year, which is a format that should be familiar to Year 9 by now.

As we begin to look ahead to the festive season, we have some exciting Christmas activities planned. Our Winter Music Concert will take place on Wednesday 2 December, showcasing the musical talents of our students.

We will also be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11 December, inviting students and staff to get into the festive spirit and enjoy some Christmas fun for a good cause.

Likewise, tutor time this half term is going to be busy with a wide variety of topics and sessions to be covered. These sessions will cover Digital Literacy, International School, Finance, Careers and also the opportunity for Students to create targets for their learning in our Student Self Reflection Review, which will follow on from Year 9's Data 1.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to some resources and upcoming events that we have for parents and carers. We have just added our latest November Online Safety Newsletter to the school website. This is packed with information and advice about how to tackle online grooming, parental controls and more.

Please do keep an eye on our website, which has plenty of resources, and we will shortly be adding details of some workshops being run by our in-house family support team on Sleep and Understanding Teenagers. These will take place in the New Year.

If there is anything that you or your child needs support with, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or your child's form tutor.

I am very much looking forward to this half term with Year 9 and seeing how the year group continues to grow and make the most of the opportunities afforded to them.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Piper
Assistant Headteacher – Year 9 Lead