

November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I just wanted to send you a quick letter with some general updates and information. I will write to you again before the end of term.

Dates for your diary:

- Term ends on Friday 19th December and students will leave the school at 12.00pm. This is a normal school day so students should be in full uniform. During that week we will be serving Christmas lunch.
- The new term starts on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at the normal time.

In regard to school lunches we have seen a significant increase in the uptake of school meals this term which is great. There is now both a break and lunchtime service. We also have free porridge as part of our breakfast club from 8.00am.

We have appointed a new school librarian who will join us next week. The new library is proving very popular and students can use this before and after school. Next term we will be improving our Home Learning resources, revision materials and providing packs for each term in addition to tasks set during weekly lessons. Further information will be sent out next term.

Currently we are working towards implementing a new Management Information System (MIS). This will be launched in Spring 2026. As part of the process we have commissioned three companies to present to us before deciding which one best suits our needs. Once this decision is made we will inform you and provide guidance. The aim is to further improve communication with you and a more efficient and comprehensive parent app so you will be able to monitor your child's progress and Attitude to Learning. We recognise that the current MIS is not working as we would wish. I apologise for any frustration this may cause but want to assure you this is on our action plan.

You will be aware that the independent review into the National Curriculum is now complete. The Department for Education (DfE) will release the revised curriculum in spring 2027 ahead of September 2028. You can follow updates on the DfE website. In the meantime schools have started work in preparation for the changes. The revised curriculum will include changes to the GCSE offer and encourage a greater breadth of choice. Again, we will provide updates as they come.

Finally, a reminder that we have introduced a ban on smart phones with Year 7s. As a school we encourage you to consider a delay in providing your child with a smart phone in response to the evidence regarding mental health and well-being. Students may have a basic or brick phone but all devices must be out of sight and turned off for the school day. Our initial assessment of the ban in Year 7 has been positive with less reports of misuse of social media and online bullying. Next term we will be holding a series of assemblies and guidance on this topic. At the same time we are continually looking at how we embrace new and exciting technology within education in a way that supports learning and harmonious interaction, but also how to question what is reported on social media.

Finally, I would like to share some exciting news with you. We have four students in Year 13 who are through to the next stage of their applications to Oxford University. Getting to this point is a great achievement and we hope that the new year brings them good news.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. Langham
Headteacher