



Headteacher's Update

4 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone has had a good week. The heat of Monday and Tuesday was definitely a test for us all, however the more clement weather of the latter half of the week has made working conditions more bearable.

Parents' Evening

I hope everyone had a productive parents' evening. Staff were incredibly positive about the conversations they held and enjoyed the opportunity to discuss progress, celebrate successes and plan for further success with each family. These events are annual, and I was a little frustrated that around 30% of our families didn't make appointments. As I have mentioned previously, students' success hinges on the school and the family working in tandem to support the student through the journey of secondary school and the parents' evening conversations are pivotal part of that journey. Moving forward, the Year 8 parents' evening will be in March, and I hope you can all attend this event.

ECTs

This week, we gave a big River Academy welcome to our three new Early Career Teachers (ECTs), who will be teaching with us in September. We welcome Ms Chow into the Art department, Ms Gopalan into the Maths department and Ms Cole into the English department. All three will be with us for the rest of the term as a part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust support offer for early career teachers.

PGL

There is a huge amount of excitement amongst the students regarding the PGL trip next Friday and a full letter explaining the weekend arrangements will come out on Monday.

The staff are also looking forwards to spending some time out of school with the students seeing how they can challenge themselves on the various activities on offer.

I am also incredibly grateful to Ms Moore for organising, and so many of my staff for giving up their weekends to support the school and our students, especially at the end of a long school year.

Enrichment Day

On Monday 14th we also have a brilliant Enrichment Day for all students. There will be boxing, basketball, drama, art, sound therapy and dance workshops across the day as we ask the students to look at new hobbies and techniques to de-stress. Within those delivering these workshops we have a finalist from Britain's Got Talent (dance), a former professional basketball player, a former British champion boxer and a professional artist so this day looks like it will be one not to be missed.

Sports Day and PTA disco

In two weeks, we will be holding our first ever Sports Day. Mr Clare has come up with a fantastic plan which maximises the numbers of students participating and ensures it is a community day.

The students will have the chance to earn points for their house as well as set the first ever school records!

Following that in the evening, the PTA have asked to run a disco as a nice social event to finish Year 7. They will be circulating details of the event separately, but I believe it runs from 6-8pm and will take place in our hall. As a result of this new event, we have decided to postpone the barbecue that we had originally planned for that afternoon.

Uniform next week

Just a reminder we will be in 'shirt sleeve order' on Monday which means shirts and trousers, school shorts or skirts, but no ties or blazers are required. Based on the forecast, we will decide how the rest of the week will look at some point on Monday.



End of term

Please be reminded we finish at **12.30pm on Wednesday 23rd July**

Have an amazing weekend and thank you for your support.

A. Hartley

Andy Hartley

Headteacher