



Headteacher's Update

6 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another notably wet week, I would like to commend our students for their patience and resilience despite the many indoor lunches and breaktimes they have experienced.

Mastery Showcase Assessments

Year 8 students received their results during an excellent assembly on Wednesday morning. Mrs Billingham delivered a thoughtful and reflective presentation before students moved to the canteen to collect their results in a format mirroring GCSE distribution. It was heartening to see so many smiles, celebrations, and expressions of relief.

Our analysis of the outcomes highlights a clear pattern: those who appeared in the top 50 or who made the strongest progress were typically students who consistently work hard, meet deadlines, give their full effort, and approached these assessments with seriousness and maturity.

For students who did not perform as well as hoped, we will be identifying appropriate support strategies to ensure they are better equipped for future assessments and can enjoy a more positive experience as Year 8 progresses.

Year 7 students completed their assessments this week. During a conversation in the dining hall on Thursday, several students reflected honestly that they had perhaps not dedicated enough time to revision. While this is part of the learning process, it was encouraging to hear such self-awareness, and we hope they will apply these lessons ahead of the summer assessment series.



Mythology Workshop and Community Lecture



Our thanks go to Mr Rosser for delivering an engaging and highly informative workshop on Mythology. He held the attention of 36 students for over an hour with captivating tales of multiheaded creatures, heroic quests, and perilous journeys from the Ancient World.

We would also like to highlight the next Community Lecture, which will take place on **Tuesday at 4.00pm**. This session's topic is...

STEM Club

Last week's STEM Club session was particularly enjoyable. We are grateful to Dr Dukinfield for organising the session, and especially to Ms Baker for her live demonstration of inflating a pair of lamb's lungs using only a straw and her own lung power—a spectacle that certainly made an impression on the audience.

Sport

Congratulations to the Year 7 basketball and netball teams for securing a double victory in their fixtures against MECE on Thursday



evening. We extend our thanks to Ms Moore and the team for their perseverance through weather

conditions that escalated from light drizzle to driving rain.

Half Term

A reminder that the school will finish at **3.15pm on Friday 13th February**, and we will return after the half term break on **Monday 23rd February at 9.10am**.

INSET Day

Please note that, as published on our school calendar, **Friday 27th February** is an INSET day.

Have a lovely weekend and mind the puddles!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that curves back under the name.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher