



05 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## Spring Term Welcome back – Year 9

Welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable break and I'd like to wish you a very happy, if chilly, start to 2026. As we begin our new term the whole-school focus is on **Working Together** - recognising that students achieve their best when school, home and peers work as a team – a theme that was reflected in my assemblies to each year group this morning.

During each assembly there were also some key messages appropriate to Year 9 outlined below:

### Year 9

Year 9 marks an important transition as students begin the GCSE options process.

Key areas this term include:

- Learning about available GCSE subjects
- Receiving guidance from teachers and school staff
- Making informed choices based on interests, strengths, and future aspirations

We strongly encourage parents to engage in conversations at home and attend information events. Students are not expected to navigate this process alone — support is central. Further information about the timeline for the Options process will come in due course.

It was lovely to welcome back students this morning who, for the most part, were dressed smartly and were enthusiastic (if a little tired looking!) in their lessons across the morning. In assembly I took the opportunity to remind students about 3 key areas of their conduct that had slipped a little in the run into Christmas:

- **Uniform:** a reminder that students are to be wearing grey trousers/shorts or skirt, white shirt, tie and blazer.
- **Punctuality:** students should make their way swiftly between lessons



- **Mobile phones:** we operate a “see it, hear it, lose it” policy for mobile phones (as well as headphones/EarPods). Students are reminded that should then need to contact home during the day they can do so through Student Services.

Finally, I wanted to provide some staff updates. Firstly I'd like to warmly welcome **Ms Sarah Wilkinson** who joins our Inclusion Team. Ms Wilkinson is already familiar with the school and many of our older students will recognise her as she has been part of our exams invigilating team for a number of years. Secondly, **Mr Perry** will be returning to his roots to cover Mrs Hill's Geography teaching when she begins her Maternity leave this week – we know students will be in safe hands with Mr Perry's vast experience and endless Geographical knowledge. Lastly an update on **Mrs Gibbs**, who was due to join us from Maiden Erlegh in Reading (MER) to serve as my Deputy Head. Due to a change of circumstances at MER, Mrs Gibbs will now assume the role of Interim Headteacher and as such will not be joining us at MEC. We wish her the warmest of congratulations on the new post and I know she will be a fantastic headteacher over there. The upshot for us is that **Mrs Chakera** will remain in the Maths department here instead of the planned switch to MER – we welcome her back and I know staff and students are thrilled that she remains part of our team.

Wishing you a lovely week

Kind regards



Miss E Bliss  
Headteacher

