



02 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A shortened week for the students, but we all enjoyed a positive return following Half Term. The welcome return of the sunshine certainly lifted spirits and set a bright tone for the weeks ahead. There has been a strong sense of focus and renewed energy across the school, and it has been a pleasure to see students embracing their learning and wider opportunities with enthusiasm.

Assemblies this week were focused around “making the next 5 weeks count”. Whilst the specific messages were tailored to individual year groups the underlying theme is that even in a just 25 school days you can make lasting impact on your progress and outcomes through strong attendance, positive choices in the classroom and committing to effective study habits outside the classroom. For Year 11 this is reflected in daily revision against a timetable, Year 10 by engaging in upcoming workshops to ensure they are fully prepared for PPEs in May and in Years 7-9 ensuring homework is completed to set the habit now in preparation for success in years to come. It is undoubtedly the case that “getting started” is the hardest part and so I challenged the students to do something every night, however small, to start to make those 1% gains.

This year’s Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award sessions are now underway, and we are delighted to welcome back former Head of PE, Mr Nutt, who has returned to deliver training. The sessions will see students developing their navigation, teamwork and resilience skills as they embark on their DofE journey. The Bronze Award provides such an important opportunity for personal growth, and it has been encouraging to see students approaching the challenge with maturity, determination and strong team spirit.

Last week, a group of Year 9 students took part in an inspiring workshop delivered by Trinity College Oxford, focused on university pathways and future aspirations. The session offered valuable insight into higher education and encouraged students to think ambitiously about their long-term goals. They engaged thoughtfully throughout, asking perceptive questions and reflecting on the steps they can begin taking now to keep future opportunities open.



The true highlight of the week, however, was our whole-school production of *Sister Act Jnr*. The performances were simply fantastic and a wonderful showcase of the talent within our school community. From the opening number to the final curtain call, students demonstrated confidence, commitment and genuine joy on stage.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Richmond for her vision, creativity and determination in bringing this production to life. School productions require an enormous amount of planning and dedication, and her leadership ensured a performance of the highest quality. We are also incredibly grateful to the many staff and community volunteers who supported throughout the rehearsal schedule and worked tirelessly behind the scenes, as well as to those who assisted with costumes, staging, choreography, lighting and sound.

Finally, thank you to all parents, families and friends who came to support across the performances. The packed audiences created a fantastic atmosphere and meant a great deal to our students. It was an uplifting production in every sense - celebrating resilience, teamwork and the power of collaboration and we are immensely proud of everyone involved.

While students enjoyed a bonus long weekend, staff joined colleagues from across the Trust at the MET Conference on Friday for a day of continued professional development. This provided a valuable opportunity to connect with one another, reflect on our individual practice and develop new ideas to further strengthen teaching and learning and school operations. The day was collaborative, thoughtful and energising, reinforcing our shared commitment to continual improvement.

This week, students and parents from Years 9, 10 and 11 are invited to attend the Trust Careers Fair being held at Maiden Erlegh School (Silverdale Road) on Thursday 5 March – [click here to find details about the careers fair](#).

Looking further ahead to March there is much to be excited about including meeting our prospective Y7s following National Offers Day, Year 11s completing their Food and Art Exams over the next couple of weeks, whole school activities to celebrate National Science Week, the Kenyan group undertaking their 20 mile Sponsored Walk to raise awareness and funds and as ever countless trips, sports fixtures and other curricular activities to broaden our students' horizons – as ever I will share photos and updates on these as they take place!

Best wishes,



Miss E Bliss  
Headteacher

