



13 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you've had a good week. The weather certainly seems to be keeping us on our toes—bright sunshine one moment and blustery showers the next! Let's hope spring decides to settle in soon – if only so we can all make better decisions on what coat to wear in the mornings!

This week's assembly celebrated *International Women's Day*. Students learned about inspiring women who have changed the world through determination, creativity and courage in recent History including Frida Kahlo, Emmeline Pankhurst, Junko Tabai, Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie before highlighting some of the pioneers of the modern day including The Lionesses, Sara Sabry and Dr Katalin Kariko. We also reflected on the challenges that still exist for many women and girls around the world highlighting ongoing inequalities in education, STEM careers, healthcare and Parliament representation – recognising that there is much still to be done.



A huge well done to the amazing group of students and staff who completed the 20-mile sponsored walk in support of our Kenya project yesterday. Across the 11-hour day they encountered every bit of British weather possible – sun, wind, rain and even hail! But, fuelled by an array of snacks and good humour spirits remained high and today their smiles outshone their sore feet. As part of the walk students also visited four other Trust schools to deliver assemblies and speak with staff about the project.





They raised awareness of the challenges many young people face in accessing education around the world and represented our school with real pride and maturity. Their efforts were also a final push for fundraising – any last donations you might wish to make can be via links on our social media.



Last night we held our quarterly Governors' meeting. Our governors play a vital role in the life and success of the school, giving their time, expertise, and thoughtful oversight to secure the best outcomes for our pupils. They champion the school, offer robust challenge, and help drive continuous improvement. Their dedication strengthens our vision, supports our staff, and shapes the strategic direction of our work. I am deeply grateful for their unwavering commitment, their wisdom, and the genuine passion they bring to their role.

As part of the preparation for Governor's meetings, I take a deeper look at attendance. Currently we sit at 90% for the school year to date – which places us in line with other Oxfordshire Secondary Schools but marginally lower than National Average. Y7, Y9 and Y10 attendance is holding at 90% and above (with Year 7 just shy of 94%) but Year 8 and Year 11 has dropped to 87% and 86.4% respectively). When looking at attendance by tutor group I must congratulate 11C, 10B, 10C, 9A, 9B, 9C, 7A, 7B and 7C for attendance figures above 93%. 7C top the list at 95.8% - fantastic!

And finally for this week, I am thrilled to share news of two exciting appointments for September: Mr Root will join us as Deputy Head and Ms Basson as Lead for English. Both bring extensive experience, fresh thinking, and a real passion for helping young people thrive. We look forward to introducing them to you properly over the coming weeks, but for now we wanted to share our excitement about the energy and expertise they will add.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Yours,

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

