



20 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hasn't it been lovely to enjoy some extended sunshine this week? Arriving and leaving work in the daylight makes such a difference. For those keeping track—today was my first *no-coat* PE lesson out on the field, with all the BTEC students playing football in the sunshine. A very welcome start to the morning!



I'd like to begin with some brilliant news about Year 8 student Lilah, who has a real talent for Irish Dancing. As part of the St Patrick's Day celebrations, she performed for over 10 hours across six local residential care homes—bringing joy to residents and showing incredible stamina. Over Easter, Lilah will be competing at the World Irish Dancing Championships in Kilkenny, Ireland. We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to hearing all about her experience.

A big thank you as well to the students who volunteered at the Primary School Athletics events we hosted over the winter. During the finals in late February, Efe, David, Aaron, Aistis, Azor, Deanna, Beau, Henry and Freddie all gave up their Saturday morning to support and guide the Year 4, 5 and 6 competitors. These events simply wouldn't run without volunteers, and they are a key part of the primary school sporting calendar.

On Wednesday, Year 10 visited the Oxfordshire Careers Fair at the Kassam Stadium, where they spoke with a wide range of colleges, companies and apprenticeship providers to explore future pathways. Students gave very positive feedback about the afternoon. Y10 are now building towards their first formal PPE exam week (w/c 27 April), followed by their World of Work week. Thank you to Mr Clark and Miss Dunn for coordinating this valuable trip.





Yesterday, Year 9 watched a performance of “Chelsea’s Story”, a powerful and innovative production highlighting the serious issues surrounding child exploitation, with a particular focus on grooming. Students also received important guidance on how to seek support if they are ever worried about their own—or a friend’s—safety. They listened extremely well and will continue exploring these themes in their upcoming Personal Development lessons. Thank you to Miss Cheeseman for organising such an impactful experience.



We also nearly had some unexpected guests yesterday morning! With the clear weather, local hot-air balloon flights have started up again and one came remarkably close to landing in the quad before rising and drifting onward. Thank you to Mrs Flett for capturing the moment.



In recent weeks we've had a number of football and netball fixtures against local schools. The PE team have been delighted with the number of students keen to get involved and proudly represent the school.



Mr Caldwell was especially impressed with the initiative shown by the Year 7 netball team, who ensured that everyone had kit, transport arranged and were match-ready on the day.

We are firmly in the final stretch with Year 11. This week, BTEC students received their coursework unit grades following moderation, and next week our Year 11 Artists will sit their 10-hour final exam on Thursday and Friday. Students have also received their most recent PPE results and will work through specific feedback in lessons next week.

Finally, I was delighted to announce the winners of our 2026 Photography Competition: Zac, Aistis, Elliot, Saanvi (all Y10), Samuel (Y11) and Austin (Y7).

I met with them on Wednesday to congratulate them, talk about their images, and hear more about their interest in photography. The standard of entries this year was exceptionally high, and the variety of photographs submitted was wonderful. Congratulations to all who entered—and a special well done to our six winners.

The winning images will be printed and displayed in school soon.





2026 Winning Images



We have also been invited to submit student work for a Henley-based photography competition, with selected pieces showcased at the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley-on-Thames this summer. Details will be shared with students next week, and I hope many will take the opportunity to enter.

To all in our community who are celebrating, I would like to wish Eid Mubarak—and to everyone, I hope you have a lovely (and hopefully sunny!) weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher



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