



22 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I will very very quietly say (so not to scare it away) that we have enjoyed a day of summer weather today – and the forecast looks like it might bless us with a sunny Bank Holiday and Half Term! I fully embraced my “PE Friday” this morning and topped up my Vitamin D in the process! The Year 10s were enjoying Ultimate Frisbee and Rounders, whilst those who do BTEC also took the opportunity to get their fitness testing completed (in the shade!).



Year 11 students have continued with their GCSE examinations, completing papers in English Literature (Poetry and *An Inspector Calls*), English Language, Chemistry, French and Computing Paper 2. We remain incredibly impressed with their punctuality, focus and preparedness throughout this examination period. They have approached each exam with maturity and determination, which is a credit to them. As we move into the half term break, I hope students are able to enjoy some well-deserved rest, whilst also keeping revision high on the agenda in preparation for the exams still to come.

This morning, we were delighted to support two of our Year 10 students who sat GCSE examinations in Turkish and Italian. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to secure an additional qualification, and we are very proud of their commitment. A particular thank you goes to Mrs Reilly, our Exams Officer, for facilitating this opportunity so efficiently.



And on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons Year 7 also had their first taste of formal assessments as they sat short papers in English and Maths that are being sat by all Y7 students across Maiden Erlegh Trust. We were hugely impressed with how they approached these sessions – punctual, all their equipment and their conduct in the Main Hall was impeccable!

I wanted to update you on the timetable changes for after Half Term. As you know we are welcoming Mr Olasunkanmi to our Science team after the holidays – this, along with some reallocation of teaching time following the departure of Year 11, means that where some classes have had cover this term, we have been able to organise the timetable so that this is no longer the case. Timetables have updated on ClassCharts and students will be issued with a printed copy on Monday morning in tutor time.

Additionally, we will be making a small adjustment to our canteen procedures from after Half Term. In a bid to reduce litter across the site, students who purchase a main meal will now have it served on a plate (rather than take away box) and will need to sit and eat it in the canteen. “Grab and Go” food will still be available and can be taken outside as usual.

Yesterday was a busy day in school. Year 10 students received their PPE results in the morning, providing them with valuable insight into their current progress and next steps. In the evening, we hosted our Year 10 Parents’ Evening, which was a really positive and constructive event. It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance, engaging in thoughtful conversations about what has gone well and where students can now focus their efforts to further improve their grades.

A reminder to Year 10 families that our revision guides will be available via ParentPay after half term. These can be purchased at a significantly discounted rate through the school, and we strongly encourage families to take advantage of this offer.

Additionally, as part of Knife Crime Awareness Week, Thames Valley Police were in school and ran an information assembly with Year 8 about the dangers and concerns associated with knife crime and carrying knives. Year 8 listened and engaged with interest and maturity throughout.



Year 7 and 8 students took part in a Celebration Assembly with Mrs Haycock, where achievements from across the curriculum were recognised. We also celebrated students with excellent and improved attendance, as well as those who have accumulated a high number of House Points in each of the tutor groups - well done to all involved.

The assembly also recognised the fantastic efforts of Year 8 students in their cooking rotation, particularly their contributions to the Great British Bake competition. Entries included cakes, steak & chips, fish & chips and even a fry up. We are delighted to announce Percy as the winner, with his outstanding Cornish pasties—an excellent achievement!



In addition, we were pleased to celebrate student success in the recent UK Junior Maths Challenge. Congratulations to all 42 students who took part and a special well done to the 11 Bronze, 4 Silver and 2 Gold award winners - a fantastic accomplishment. Special mention go to **Hazel (Y7) and Anushka (Y8)**, who have been invited to compete in the next round. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to sharing their results in due course.



On Monday, 18 students visited the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley-on-Thames to view their photographs and poems that had been selected to be part of an exhibition. We were delighted to learn that Olivia (Y10) had been selected by the curators of the exhibition as a Runner Up for her photograph “reflections”. Thank you to Mrs Flett and Ms Dunn for accompanying the students.



And finally, I am delighted to announce our Student Leadership Team for 2026-7 who have been appointed this week following a robust application process including a letter, speech to their peers and an interview with myself and Miss Cheeseman. Congratulations to Poppy Ann and Ines who have been appointed Head Students and Mal and Saanvi who have been appointed as their Assistant Head students. All 4 impressed us with the vision, enthusiasm and maturity during the process and I know as a student leadership group we have a very capable and driven group who will undoubtedly leave their mark. Additionally, Hayley has been appointed to our Wellbeing Ambassador and Finn and Eleanor to the roles of Sports Captains. After Half Term we begin the process of appointing into the roles of Subject leads and House Captains.



Wishing you all a very lovely break

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

