

BELONGING BRIEF

08 JUNE 2026

BUILDING BELONGING, SAFETY AND SUCCESS TOGETHER

Welcome to Issue 3 of *The Belonging Brief*.

Now that we have reached the final term, we'd like to thank families for their continued support. This edition shares updates on our Belonging Strategy, Personal Development curriculum, safeguarding priorities, and attendance.

As always, we believe students thrive when home and school work together to create an environment where every child feels safe, supported, and able to succeed.

Our Belonging Strategy Focus This Term

Leave It Better

Throughout the year, our Belonging Strategy has focused on creating a school where every student feels valued, understood, and connected.

This term's focus is **Leave It Better**.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

For staff:

The impact we have should always be a positive one.

Staff are encouraged to consider how every interaction can leave a student feeling more supported, more confident, and more connected to school.

For students:

Your actions shape our school.

Students are encouraged to think about the impact they have on others through their words, actions, and choices.

This might look like:

- Using words that build others up
- Helping others feel included
- Showing respect for shared spaces
- Choosing actions that contribute positively to school life

Why was this chosen?

This final focus brings together all of our Belonging Strategy themes from this year:

Warm Welcomes, Respectful Interactions, Calm is Contagious, Connection Before Correction, and Visible Belief.

At its heart, Leave It Better is about recognising that every interaction leaves a mark. Whether we are a member of staff, a student, or a parent, we all have a role to play in creating a school community where people feel valued, supported, and proud to belong.

Small positive actions make a big difference. When we leave things better than we found them, school becomes a kinder, calmer, and more positive place for everyone.



Safeguarding Spotlight

Staying Safe Around Water This Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to remind families about the importance of water safety.

Living close to the River Thames means many of our young people spend time near rivers, lakes, canals, and other open water. While these places can be enjoyable to visit, they can also present significant risks.

Young people should remember that:

- Open water can be much colder than it looks, even during hot weather
- Strong currents can exist beneath the surface
- Jumping into unknown water can result in serious injury
- Swimming in rivers, lakes, or reservoirs should only take place in designated safe areas

How parents can help:

- Talk to your child about the dangers of open water
- Encourage them to stay with friends and avoid unnecessary risks
- Discuss what they would do in an emergency
- Remind them that safety is more important than social media trends, dares, or showing off to friends

Helpful Resources for Families

- Royal Life Saving Society UK – Water Safety Advice
- Canal & River Trust – Water Safety Resources
- RNLI – Float to Live



Small conversations now can help keep young people safe throughout the summer.

Personal Development – This Term

This term, all year groups are studying **Changing Me**, exploring how we grow, develop and manage change positively.

Big Questions This Term

Year 7

How do I feel about becoming an adult?

Year 8

What factors can make an intimate relationship happy and healthy?

Year 9

How can change affect mental health?

Year 10

Can all change be positive in some way?

These topics help students develop self-awareness, resilience, healthy relationships and confidence as they prepare for future stages of life.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Last term, we welcomed Thames Valley Police into school to deliver an assembly to Year 8 as part of Knife Crime Awareness Week.

Students engaged extremely well with the session and benefited from hearing directly from police officers about the risks and consequences associated with knife crime.

We are always keen to enrich our students' experiences through external speakers and organisations. If you know of any charities, organisations, businesses or speakers who may be able to support our students through assemblies, workshops or enrichment opportunities, we would love to hear your recommendations.

Attendance

Every Day Matters

Attendance is about belonging, wellbeing and social development, as well as academic success.

Current Attendance Figures:

- **Year 7: 93.4%**
- **Year 8: 86.8%**
- **Year 9: 91.4%**
- **Year 10: 90.1%**



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Attendance continues to be one of the strongest predictors of academic success, wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

Students who attend regularly:

- Build stronger friendships
- Feel more connected to school
- Access more learning opportunities
- Achieve better outcomes
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Our target remains 96% attendance or above for every student. As of 4th May, if a student has 90% attendance, they have already missed 14 days of school. That's 70 hours of lost learning.

Working together to Improve Attendance:

As a Belonging School, we are committed to working in partnership with families to support young people's attendance. We understand that there can be a range of barriers which make attending school difficult at times. Our aim is always to take a supportive, collaborative approach and work alongside students and families to understand and address any challenges they may be experiencing.

Whilst we have a statutory duty to follow attendance procedures set out by Oxfordshire County Council and the Government, including letters, attendance meetings and other formal processes where required, our approach remains focused on supporting students and families. These processes are intended to improve attendance through early identification of concerns and collaborative support, rather than simply monitoring attendance.

Our focus is on understanding what may be getting in the way and finding solutions together.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance, wellbeing, friendships, anxiety, routines or any other factor that may be affecting school attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our pastoral team are always happy to meet with families, discuss concerns and help unpick potential barriers.

By working together, we can give every young person the best opportunity to feel they belong, attend regularly and achieve their potential.

A Reminder for the End of Term

This term finishes on **22nd July**, and there is still a great deal happening between now and the end of the school year.

Trips, enrichment activities, celebration events, transition opportunities and curriculum learning all continue right up to the final day. We therefore expect students to attend school until the end of term so that they do not miss out on these important experiences.



We Want To Hear From You...



We actively seek and listen to the views and experiences of pupils, staff, and parents/carers. Share your thoughts, feedback, or suggestions here:

[Parent Feedback Form - Fill in Form](#)

Useful Links:

[Royal Life Saving Society UK - Water Safety Advice](#)

[Canal & River Trust - Water Safety Resources](#)

[RNLI – Float to Live](#)

[Action for Children – Parent Resources](#)

Thank you for your continued support throughout this academic year. Together, we can continue to leave things better for every young person in our community.

With seven weeks still to go, there is much to look forward to. We look forward to working with you to ensure every student makes the most of the opportunities ahead as we move towards the end of another successful school year.



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

