



12 June 2026

Dear parents and carers,

The calendar says early June, but the weather definitely missed the memo this week! Between the wind and rain, it's felt a bit more like October—though we can at least be thankful the heaviest downpours hit during lessons rather than at lunchtime.

Here is what's been happening around the school:

During the sunnier windows, Year 8 headed out around the site for their Geography lessons, completing Environmental Quality Surveys (EQIs) as part of their local environment unit. They've been brainstorming brilliant ways to boost our school environment scores, and I'm looking forward to a short presentation of their best ideas in the coming weeks!



Year 11 exams are finally down to the "one more day" stage, with the final papers wrapping up this Monday. It has felt like a particularly long slog since the first BTEC exam back in early May, but Year 11's attendance and engagement haven't waned for a second. We remain incredibly proud of their focus and effort. Next week, Year 9 get their first taste of exams in the Main Hall under exam conditions with their PPEs in English, Maths and Science – I know they will try their best and that is all we can ask!

On Mondays and Wednesdays after school, groups of students have been heading down to Henley to master their rowing technique. This week, they transitioned from land-based sessions to the water, launching in both singles and quad boats—fantastic progress in just a few short weeks!

Earlier this week, some of our Year 8 students took part in the QuadKids athletics event at Gillotts, testing their skills against schools from across South Oxfordshire. Everyone involved did us proud, and there are plenty more competitive opportunities coming up soon.



On Thursday afternoon, Mrs Haycock and I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Greener Henley Poetry Celebration evening. Three of our talented Year 7 students were among the big winners:

- **Emilia** – Highly Commended
- **Gabi** – 3rd Prize
- **Hannah** – Overall Children's Winner!

Hannah was invited to read her poem to the audience and did so beautifully, while Gabi and Emilia's winning entries were read out in their absence. Huge congratulations also go to Dan, who attended to share his work, and a big thank you to Mrs Haycock for reading his poem to the group on his behalf.



This afternoon 35 of Y9 have headed out on their qualifying expedition for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. They will be winding their way through the Oxfordshire Countryside in the direction of Henley (hopefully!) where they will camp for the night before heading back tomorrow. There was a nervous excitement this morning as they arrived with full rucksacks and fuelled by big breakfasts... i suspect they will be considerably more tired this time tomorrow! As ever a huge thank you to the staff who are supporting this today, overnight and tomorrow – fingers crossed for an uneventful couple of days.

Next week we have a small round of “catch up” immunisations on Tuesday – parents whose children are eligible should already have been contacted directly about this opportunity.



Over the last few weeks we've had the pleasure of welcoming several visitors on-site for various workshops and visits. I am immensely proud that they consistently comment on the calm, welcoming and purposeful atmosphere on site and in classrooms and they are always impressed by students across all subjects showing a true thirst for learning.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

