



14 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very British opening to start—but gosh, it is hot! I think I am finally ready for a little rain and a cooler breeze (though perhaps we can hold off on that until after Sports Day!).

I must take a moment to recognise how incredibly well our students have adapted to this sudden summer heatwave. They have conducted themselves so sensibly, particularly at break and lunch, where they have done a brilliant job of seeking out the shade and staying hydrated.

Not even a heatwave can slow us down, however, as we hurtle towards the very end of term! Here is a roundup of the fantastic things our students have been up to over the last week:

☀️ Year 6 Transition Days

We hosted a fabulous series of transition events across last week focused on getting to know our incoming students, helping them make new friends, and reducing any anxieties ahead of September. A huge thank you to all the staff involved, as well as our absolutely wonderful **Student Ambassadors** who answered questions, offered support, and provided endless encouragement to our future pupils.



Climate and Nature Local Lobby

Students from Year 9 and Year 10 proudly represented the school at the *Sonning Common Climate and Nature Local Lobby*, in the company of our local MP, Freddie von Mierlo. Our students gave an excellent presentation advocating for safe cycle routes from Emmer Green to Sonning Common—a cause that is incredibly important to so many in our local community.

Year 9 Updates: Options & "Get Set for Year 10"

- **Options Taster Sessions:** After a brief hiatus courtesy of the heatwave, Year 9 successfully completed their Options taster sessions. Feedback from staff has been incredibly positive; students made excellent first impressions and have made the exact start to their new courses that we had hoped for.
- **PPE Results & Looking Ahead:** On Monday, Year 9 received their PPE results during an extraordinary assembly with Mr Bell. Students reflected on their preparation and performance, while looking ahead to the key skills and habits that will ensure their success in Year 10. This successfully draws our *"Get Set for Year 10"* programme to a close.

House Music Finals 2026

On Wednesday afternoon, we gathered for the highly anticipated House Music Finals. Thirteen incredible acts—who had fought their way through class rounds and a tough semi-final—wowed the audience with their immense talent and confidence.

A massive congratulations to our winners:

-  **1st Place:** Daniel C (Abbey, Y7) – for an exceptional electric guitar performance.
-  **2nd Place:** Edith W (Abbey, Y8) – for her stunning vocals.
-  **Joint 3rd Place:** Olivia F (Thames, Y9) and Henry W & Peter C (Abbey, Y9) – for their brilliant piano and drum/guitar performances.

In the overall house standings for the event, **Thames** took a very narrow victory over **Abbey**, followed closely by **Peppard** and **Chiltern**. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a huge thank you to Mrs Brown for her boundless enthusiasm and encouragement!





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The Race for House Champion!

As the school year draws to a close and the final points are being tallied, the overall competition for House Champion is hanging in the balance! Today's Sports Day will likely be the ultimate decider. Best of luck to all the students who have signed up to represent their houses—results will follow in due course!

Important Notices & Reminders

-  **Free Bus Pass Re-applications (Y8–Y10):** Reading Buses have asked us to remind parents of students currently in Years 8, 9, and 10 who are entitled to a free bus pass that **you must re-apply for this pass for September**. This is a change in their usual practice, so please do not leave it too late to apply!
Please click [HERE](#) to re-apply.
- **Last Day of Term:** A reminder that we break up next **Wednesday 22 July at 1:00 PM**. School buses have been arranged to arrive for students at this earlier time.
-  **September Return Dates:**
 - **Monday 7th September:** Year 7 and Year 11 students *only*.
 - **Tuesday 8th September:** Years 8, 9, and 10 return to school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

