



18 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a calm and positive week as we settle back into our regular school routines. There has been a real buzz in classrooms, with students engaging well in their learning, while break and lunchtime have been filled with friendly conversation and good humour as everyone enjoys the fresh air and perhaps the last of the September sunshine.

Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Years 8 to 11 who attended their year group information evenings this week, either in person or online. If you were unable to attend, copies of the presentations are available on the school website [HERE](#). Our Year 7 Information Evening is scheduled for 1 October, with further details to follow from Mr Mount.



Top House Points This Week:

This week over 6000 House Points have been awarded to students, with Year 10 racing ahead with over 1700 points issued! It is fantastic to see that so many of these are from teachers in their options subjects – a clear indication of intent from the year group! By House the standings for the week are:



Abbey: 1561

Chiltern: 1554

Peppard: 1450

Thames: 1525

Top individual scorers for the week are Poppy E and Lucas (Y11), Ellie and Lucas C (Y10), Harry, Molly & Tallianna (Y9), Azor, Aksel & Hazel (Y8) and Millie, Esme and Imogen (Y7). Congratulations to all.

So far this term we have had only a small number of behaviour points issued which is excellent. A quick scan through tells me that in the main these have been issued for lack of equipment (KS3) or lack of homework (KS4). These are easy areas for student to fix and building on the information shared during the Parent meetings this week we know the importance of being prepared for lessons (Tools for Learning) and engaging with homework to consolidate learning.

Highest Attendance This Week:

The following tutor groups have recorded attendance of over 92% for this week: 11A, 11B, 11C and 11D, 10C, 8a, 8B, 7A and 7B – with 7B taking the top position in the charts with a very pleasing 97.8%

As figures stand at the end of our 2nd week – 78% across the school are sitting on 100%

At this stage of the academic year, even a small amount of absence can have a significant impact on a student's overall attendance figure and, at times, can be demoralising for students who are striving for excellent attendance. Of course, when students are genuinely unwell, absence is sometimes unavoidable. However, I would ask for your support in helping us reduce what might be described as "incidental" absence, particularly patterns of late arrival that result in students missing substantial parts of the school day. We are always pleased when students attend for the remainder of the day, but where late-starts are becoming a regular habit, concerns naturally begin to arise. Every lesson counts and establishing strong attendance routines early in the year provides the best foundation for academic success.

There was also great excitement this week as the Performing Arts team announced the cast for our 2027 production of *Matilda*. It is wonderful to see students from across all year groups auditioning and successfully securing roles in what promises to be a fantastic production. Congratulations to everyone who has been cast. I know there is also significant interest in joining the pit band and the all-important backstage crew, and further information about these opportunities will be shared in due course.

A reminder that next Wednesday we will be holding our annual Open Evening for prospective families. To allow staff sufficient time to prepare the school, students will finish



at **1.00pm**. Reading Buses will operate services to collect students at this time, and we will arrange minibus transport for students who usually use the Oxfordshire service if parents are unable to collect them.

Students will follow their normal timetable for Periods 1 to 3, with a slightly extended break to ensure everyone has had the opportunity to eat before they leave site.

If you are active on social media, please consider sharing our Open Evening flyer with friends, family and local networks. There is no substitute for visiting the school in person, seeing our facilities, and experiencing the warmth, ambition and sense of community that sits at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you in advance to the many students who have volunteered to support the evening. Their enthusiasm, confidence and pride in their school always provide the magic touch that makes our Open Evening such a special event. Final arrangements for student helpers will be shared by Ms Cheeseman next week.

And finally, a note to say a huge thank you to all in our community who have extended their congratulations following the release of our OfSTED report – the kind words (and staff room sweet-treats) have been gratefully received by staff.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

