



October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another busy and productive term, I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks for the continued effort and support you've offered the students as they've embarked on their journey into Year 8. I've been genuinely proud of how well our students have risen to the occasion. They've shown resilience, maturity, and a growing sense of responsibility as they've navigated the increased demands of classwork and homework.

It's been encouraging to see them settle into their subjects with enthusiasm and determination, and their progress so far is a testament to the strong foundation of support they receive both at school and at home. Your involvement plays a vital role in helping them feel confident and capable, and I'm truly grateful for the partnership we share in supporting their learning and wellbeing. As we look ahead to the next term, I'm excited to see how they continue to grow, both academically and personally. Thank you once again for everything you do, it makes a real difference.

This week marked the completion of their first set of subject assessments, and the atmosphere across the year group has been one of focus, determination, and pride. Students have worked incredibly hard in preparation, dedicating time to revision and consolidation tasks that have helped them build confidence and deepen their understanding.

A noticeable drop in student attendance is a growing concern, as regular school attendance plays a crucial role in academic success and personal development. When students miss school frequently, they not only fall behind in their learning but also miss out on valuable opportunities to engage with peers, participate in enriching activities, and build essential skills. Research consistently shows a strong correlation between high attendance rates and positive educational outcomes, including higher achievement levels, improved wellbeing, and increased chances of future success. Encouraging and supporting students to attend school every day is vital to ensuring they reach their full potential.

To continue promoting excellent attendance across the school, we're excited to announce a special incentive running from the 1-12 December. During this period, every student who achieves 100% attendance will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a cash reward. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging consistent attendance, which plays a vital role in academic success and personal development. Last year, four students from Year 8 were lucky winners of our attendance awards, each receiving a cash prize in recognition of their commitment and reliability. We look forward to recognising those who go the extra mile to be present and engaged every day. Let's make this a December to remember!

Something I am continually proud of within Year 8 is their pride in presentation. Maintaining high standards in uniform and equipment is an essential part of fostering a positive and respectful learning environment. Students are expected to arrive at school each day wearing the correct uniform, which reflects pride in their school community and supports a sense of belonging. Uniforms should be worn neatly and in accordance with the school's guidelines, including appropriate footwear and any required PE kit on designated days. In addition to uniforms, students must come fully equipped for learning, bringing essential items such as blue or black pens, a red pen, a pencil, rubber, rulers, calculator and a reading book. Being properly prepared not only helps students engage more effectively in lessons, but also encourages responsibility and independence. We appreciate the continued support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations and ensuring students have everything they need for their school day, which contributes significantly to the overall success and wellbeing of our students.

This term we saw the first of our Ready to Read weeks, with all students engaging in eight minutes of independent reading at the start of each lesson, recording a summary and new or ambitious vocabulary they have read. It was brilliant to see the library being visited to swap books and students even swapping books on recommendations. To foster a love of reading is a real focus, and students reading each lesson begins to develop that. We look forward to hearing about what they will be reading next!

Finally, we ended the term with the Halloween Disco - an event enjoyed by all! From dancing, to games, it was wonderful to see the students relax and enjoy the afternoon in their costumes!

Please find the homework calendar for next half-term here - [📅 Homework Calendar - Year 8 2025/26](#)

We wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Barlow
Achievement Leader - Year 8