



February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I want to commend our students for the way they have embraced both Assessment Week and this first significant stage of decision-making in their education. Choosing options is an important milestone that encourages students to think deeply about their future pathways. It has been wonderful to hear so many thoughtful conversations from students who are already considering their aspirations and the opportunities ahead of them.

Assessment Week

Students approached their second Assessment Week of the year with impressive resilience and determination. They managed the increase in homework and revision with maturity, and their efforts have resulted in a clear demonstration of progress across the year group. We are incredibly proud of how they rose to the challenge.

Homework

Homework continues to be set by each department in line with our whole-school homework calendar. You can access the schedule using the link below to see when your child will receive homework:

[Homework Calendar - Staff 2025_26](#)

Parents' Evening

I would like to personally thank all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. For those who were unable to attend but requested updates, thank you also for your engagement. The conversations you have with classroom teachers - about progress, behaviour and homework - play a vital role in strengthening your child's learning and overall success.

Immersion Day

On our second Immersion Day of the year, Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to meet author and rapper Kimba, who led dynamic workshops focused on vocabulary development and the power of language. He performed for the students and encouraged them to explore key elements of expression, prompting them to think beyond the traditional English curriculum. It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic budding rappers, poets and performers across the year group, all inspired to experiment with words in creative new ways!

Standards and Expectations

As we head towards the holiday break, we would like to share a reminder about expectations regarding piercings, hair and nails. False nails or nail polish are not permitted, hair should be a natural colour, and students may wear one piercing in each earlobe only.

We also ask that you take a moment to check that your child has all the equipment needed for the school day. The required equipment includes:

- blue and black pens
- a red pen
- pencil
- ruler
- rubber
- whiteboard and whiteboard pen
- a calculator
- a reading book

These items are essential for all lessons, and without them students are unable to participate fully and effectively in their learning.

In addition, the PE kit is also considered part of essential equipment and must be brought in on PE days to ensure students can engage fully in their PE lessons.

Upcoming events

Next term will include our second Ready to Read Week, during which all students will spend the first eight minutes of every lesson reading. This initiative gives students the chance to engage with extended reading and to develop their enjoyment of books by choosing texts linked to topics they are interested in.

The holiday is a great opportunity for students to buy a new book or borrow one from the library. In the first week back, students will also be given the chance to visit the school library to select a book if they do not already have one or would like to choose something new.

I hope the holiday offers students a well-deserved and much-needed rest, and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 23 February.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Barlow
Achievement Leader - Year 8



Mrs K Preece
Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 8