



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of another successful school year, it is hard to believe just how quickly the time has passed. It seems only yesterday that we were saying goodbye to Year 7, and now we find ourselves reflecting on a wonderful year with a group of young people who have grown significantly in confidence, maturity and independence. As they prepare to begin some of their GCSE courses and embark on their chosen option pathways, we are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved.

This year has provided countless opportunities for our students to learn, develop and create lasting memories, both within school and beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, we have seen students take increasing ownership of their learning, demonstrating resilience, responsibility and a positive attitude towards their studies. Their engagement with school life and commitment to personal development have been evident in everything they have done. From sporting successes and theatrical performances to charity events and academic achievements, our students have represented themselves, their families and the school with pride. Time and again, they have demonstrated the values that make our school community so special, and they should be extremely proud of all they have accomplished.

One of the highlights of the year was our Graduation Ceremony, which recognised and celebrated the students' achievements and progress. It was a truly special occasion, filled with proud smiles, enthusiastic applause and a genuine sense of accomplishment. Watching students cross the stage to receive recognition for their hard work, commitment and positive contributions to school life was a wonderful reminder of how far they have come during their time in Year 8. The event provided an opportunity for students, staff, parents and carers to celebrate together and reflect on a year filled with growth and success.

Our Immersion Days also provided valuable and enriching experiences that enhanced learning beyond the classroom. Students showed fantastic engagement when working with our visiting author, embracing the opportunity to explore creativity, storytelling and the power of reading. It was inspiring to see so many students actively participating, asking thoughtful questions and developing their appreciation for literature. Another memorable experience was our visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town, where students were able to step back in time and bring their historical learning to life. Immersing themselves in a recreated Victorian environment allowed them to deepen their understanding of the period in a way that classroom learning alone cannot achieve. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and exemplary behaviour throughout the visit were a credit to both themselves and the school. These experiences not only support academic development but also encourage students to discover new interests and passions.

As we celebrate these successes, we also recognise the importance of preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of Key Stage 4. The transition into Year 9 marks an exciting milestone as students begin their GCSE studies and take greater ownership of their educational journey. Alongside this, we have been encouraged by the improvements in homework completion and the positive attitudes many students have shown towards independent learning. As the focus increasingly shifts towards GCSE content next year, regular homework and revision will become essential in consolidating understanding, addressing misconceptions and embedding key knowledge.

Furthermore, having the correct equipment and arriving ready to learn each day will become increasingly important. We greatly appreciate your continued support in helping students establish these positive routines and high expectations. Please see Mr Jones' communication for further details.

Looking ahead, we are excited to see what this talented year group will achieve. They have demonstrated tremendous potential, embraced challenges with enthusiasm and shown a willingness to grow both academically and personally. We are confident that they will continue to build on the progress they have made this year and approach the next stage of their education with determination, ambition and confidence.

We will be in touch in September with further information about our virtual Learning@ event, which will be an important opportunity to ensure that students get off to the best possible start in Year 9. The event will focus on how students, parents and carers, and school staff can work together to support success throughout the GCSE years.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our students thrive, and we are grateful for the encouragement, communication and guidance you provide on a daily basis. We wish all of our students and their families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and supporting our students as they begin this next important stage of their educational journey.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Barlow
Achievement Leader - Year 8

Mrs K Preece
Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 8