

Principal Letter (16)

16th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term is already moving very quickly, as I said before, for what is a very busy term. On Wednesday six Year 9 students took part in an event run by the Cambridge Maths School. They did really well and came second in the relay, and Holly and Eliza won the competition for making the longest paper structure to hold a weight. A brilliant example of our students showing their creativity and practical skills.

This week we have also had drama assemblies running every day, Year 10 exams taking place and Year 11 parents evening on Wednesday and Thursday. Year 10 have responded really positively to these exams and we have been really impressed with their attitude to this important opportunity to practice the skills needed when they finally come to sit their GCSEs. That moment obviously comes around much sooner for Year 11 and it has been great to hear positive feedback from these important conversations. We will be launching our intervention program with Year 11 next week so please look out for further information on this.

Finally, I wanted to acknowledge concerns that have been raised with me by some parents about access to water fountains and toilets during the school day. We encourage, and expect, students to use the toilet before school, at break and at lunchtime. We do recognise that this is not always possible and so staff have yellow lanyards that can be issued to students so they have permission to use the toilet during lesson time. In addition, we are completing some work over February half-term to increase the number of toilets and water stations we have in operation across the site. Do please let mentors know if your child is facing any particular issues with these aspects and we will look to provide appropriate support.

As ever, I wish you an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,

Ian Stoneham

Principal

Key dates this term:

- 30th January - Non pupil day
- 4th and 5th February - Year 8 Parents Evening
- 13th February - Last day of Half-term
- 23rd February - Half term starts for all students
- 2nd March - Parent Forum (Curriculum and teaching and learning)
- 5th March - Year 10 Parents information evening
- 11th March - Year 8 Options Evening
- 26th March - Term ends