

13th February 2026

Dear Families

We have had a busy week as we approach half term. On Monday evening there was a meeting for all parents of children who are planning on going on the ski trip. On Wednesday Year 13 students enjoyed an Apprenticeships workshop and our Sixth Form Drama students went to the theatre to see *Lost Atoms*. Year 11 also visited Woad Farm. On Thursday our RE Department hosted a St Vincent de Paul conference for the day with Mass celebrated by Fr Emmanuel. This was a lovely day, and I am grateful to our RE team for providing pupils with such a rich experience. A group of Year 13 students also attended an Auschwitz conference in London on Thursday.

This week we have also been taking part in *Children's Mental Health Week*, focusing on this year's theme: **"This is My Place."** Throughout the week, we have been highlighting the importance of helping children and young people feel a strong sense of belonging - both in school and the wider community. After half term I will be delivering an assembly to all year groups continuing this theme, as well as talking about Human Dignity and how we should interact with each other in our community. We are really going to be focusing on this next half term so that we can pull together as a community and work together to do the best that is possible whilst being kind and respectful to each other.

We had several sporting fixtures this week. On Monday the Year 11 boys' football team travelled to Radcliffe and won 2-0. They now need a win in their final match against Ousedale to win back-to-back leagues. On Tuesday the Year 7 and 9 girls' netball teams travelled to Oakgrove, with Year 7 unfortunately losing 11-0 in their final league fixture, and Year 9 winning 5 - 4 in a very close game. On Wednesday our Year 11 boys' basketball team welcomed Hazeley to St Pauls and, unfortunately, lost 61-34. Some of our Year 10 boys played in this team and they competed very well against a strong Hazeley side. Also, on Wednesday our Year 7 boys' football team bounced back after their loss in their first fixture with a fantastic win over Shenley Brook End, finishing the game 9 - 1. On Thursday the Year 9 girls' netball team had their final fixture of the year and narrowly lost 8 - 7 to Kents Hill Park in a very close game. Well done to all involved for representing the school so well.

After half term Year 10 students will be going on a residential retreat to Kintbury from Monday to Thursday. We will mark the beginning of Lent with whole school Mass on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Each tutor group will have the opportunity to experience prayer for reconciliation during tutor time over the first few weeks next half term. We have our charity non-uniform day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

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February too. Our Lent fundraising also begins and each year group will be raising money for the following charities:

Year 7 Emily's Star  
 Year 8 St Mark's Meals  
 Year 9 MK Hospital Baby Care Unit  
 Year 10 Blood Cancer UK  
 Year 11 Cancer Research UK  
 Year 12 MK Foodbank  
 Year 13 Ride High

We will be making the final preparations to our second progress check of the year, and they will be sent home to you during the first week back. Year 13 parents are invited to an information evening on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February Year 12 will take part in a 'What Career, What University, What Apprenticeship' day.

Our pupils have achieved outstanding success in the recent NSPCC Times Tables Rock Stars competition. We are delighted to share that our school ranked 1st out of 20 Secondary Schools in the South East Secondary School Leaderboard, based on school student averages. Most of our pupils contributed exceptionally to this victory, with a special congratulations to Christian Romani 7xP, who achieved 1st place within our school and an impressive 3rd place on the South East Secondary Student Leaderboard, scoring 5,277 points and placing him within the Top 50 out of 1,786 students. Christian has received a certificate, a badge and a vending machine coin in recognition of this fantastic accomplishment.

Alongside this success, four more pupils earned places in the Top 50 South East Secondary Student Leaderboard: Luca Patey 7xP, who ranked 11th with 2,940 points; Victoria Otis 7yP, ranked 21st with 2,260 points; Hollie Hedges 7xP, ranked 23rd with 2,173 points; and Christian Massa 8xP, ranked 30th with 1,960 points. Each of these pupils received certificates and vending machine coins as a reward for their exceptional performance. Congratulations to all of them for their remarkable dedication and to all pupils who contributed to this fantastic achievement.

Ofsted has introduced a new grading system for schools, moving away from the previous four-grade model. Instead of giving one overall judgement, inspectors now provide a multi-area report card, offering a more rounded picture of how a school is performing across several key areas. Schools are now graded using the following categories: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement. These categories are not comparable with the old grades because the inspection approach has changed significantly. You can find more information [here](#).

This week you will have received two letters from me. The first outlined the interim arrangements for buses that we have managed to secure with Arriva. Z&S will continue to come into the car park, so both services are available. If children choose to take the Arriva bus home, then it is essential that they conduct themselves appropriately whilst on their buses. We are aware that this isn't the most ideal of solutions and it is important to remember that it is a trial arrangement and we are very much hoping to

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persuade them to divert their service into our car park and to put additional buses on. The second letter focused on intelligence that TVP has sent us regarding a planned event at the city centre after school today. It is essential that our children are nowhere near the city centre this afternoon.

Students in Years 11 – 13 might be interested in a Virtual STEM work experience with National Energy System Operator (NESO) to discover opportunities in the engineering and energy sector and learn how they can help shape the future of **sustainable energy**.

NESO is part of the UK Government, so it is publicly owned and has a core responsibility for the entire distribution of the UK's electricity and gas supply.

**Event Details:**

- **Date:** Tuesday 17th February
- **Time:** 10:00am - 2:30pm
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom (Link provided upon registration)
- **Who Can Attend?** Year 11,12 and 13 and university students
- **To book register** [here](#)

I hope you all have a lovely half term and I look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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