



16th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

May Updates

As we welcome the warmer weather, I hope all families have been enjoying the sunshine. This half term is a short but intense one, filled with exams, enrichment activities, and preparations for the end of the school year. We are now looking ahead to our awards season, which begins with the **Sports Awards Evening next Thursday**, followed by our **College Showcases during the week of 9th June and our CPA Awards Evening on 26th June**. While I am proud of our students' achievements every day, these events are a special opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate their hard work, talent, and dedication. I look forward to seeing many of you at these celebrations.

GCSE, A Level and BTEC Exams

Exams are now well underway, and we are pleased to see students approaching them with focus, maturity, and a positive attitude. Year 13 students have now begun their study leave, and Year 11 will officially begin theirs on **Friday 23rd May**, following their English Language exam and final Year 11 assembly.

Miss Ogunseye has shared a separate letter outlining all the key arrangements for Year 11 throughout the exam period. As always, our partnership with you during this time is more important than ever and if you have any questions or if your child needs additional support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with their subject teacher, Tutor, or College Team.

Staffing Changes

We are delighted to share some exciting updates within our Senior and College leadership teams. Ms Rhea Madon has been promoted to the role of Deputy Principal which she will commence after the half-term break, following three successful years as College Head of Phoenix. Stepping into her place, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Alice Creed will take on the role of College Head of Phoenix.

In addition, Mr Lee Harkness will be relocating abroad this summer to begin a new role as Deputy Principal. We are thrilled to welcome Mr Gabriel Nipah, currently at King Solomon Ark Academy, who will join us as the new College Head of Pegasus in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Harkness for his outstanding dedication and service over the past 8 years. His commitment to our students and school community has had a lasting impact and is truly appreciated.

UK Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 1st May, 120 Year 8 students from Riddlesdown completed the Junior Mathematical challenge. This saw them completing 25 multiple choice questions which challenged their



application on key concepts taught. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The students involved did wonderfully well and we are very proud of all of them. The highest placed students will now complete the Junior Kangaroo or Junior Olympiad Qualification. Students competing achieved 25 Bronze Awards, 13 Silver Awards and *Priyen Patel (8KEW Pegasus)* achieved a Gold Award – congratulations to Priyen!

Science Enrichment

We were honoured to welcome Dr Jessica Wade, lecturer in Functional Materials at Imperial College London, to our school on 1st May 2025. An internationally renowned scientist, Dr Wade has led pioneering research in optoelectronic, spintronic, and quantum devices, particularly focusing on chiral molecular materials. She delivered a thought-provoking lecture on *Future Materials and Chirality* to our Year 12 STEM students.

Student Martha Mukasa reflected on the experience: *“Dr Wade's lecture was incredibly inspiring and reminded me why I'm so passionate about pursuing a career in STEM. I was especially fascinated by the magnetic field sensors using rubidium atoms to improve brain scans for children—it's amazing to see how scientific discovery can directly improve lives. I would love more opportunities like this in the future.”*

Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football Team Shine Against National Champions

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football team, who put in an outstanding performance against the reigning National Champions. With both their A and B teams heading to the National Finals next week, this was always going to be a tough match — but our team rose to the challenge. Coming back from 3–1 down to force extra time was an incredible achievement and we came very close to winning it in extra time. The team should be extremely proud of how they played.

Attendance – Every lesson counts

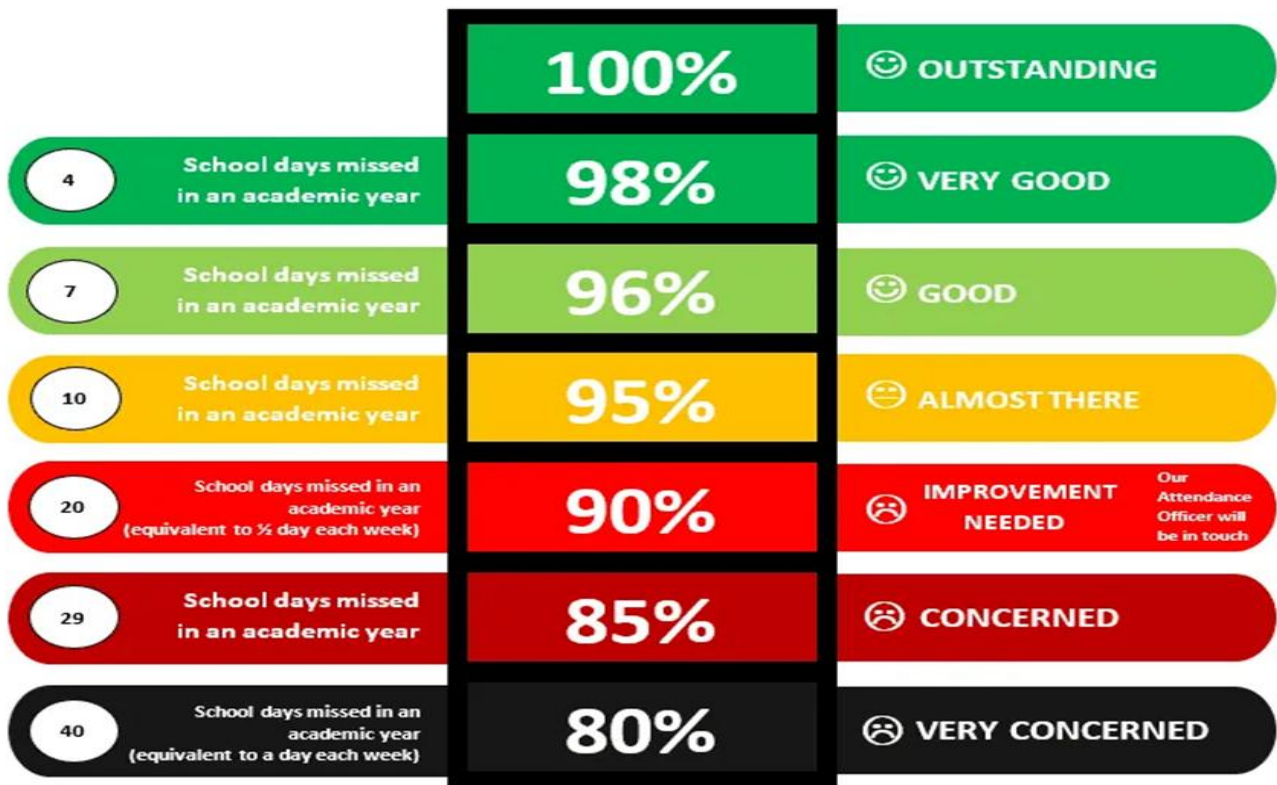
Well done to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance in their College and/or Year Group for this academic year so far. This will be celebrated in College Reward Assemblies next week.

College

Aquila	7IMH
Orion	7EMB
Pegasus	7AJP
Phoenix	7MLB

Year Groups

Year 7	7IMH
Year 8	8KGH
Year 9	9RXB & 9SEB
Year 10	10EJF
Year 11	11ALH



Safeguarding Briefing

Safer Travel

Traffic related incidents are a significant risk for younger pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children’s wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, the attached guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly. Those students who are cycling to school, please ensure they have a bike that is road worthy, lights fitted and most importantly, they wear a helmet.

Yours sincerely

Mr D A Osborne
Principal