



2nd May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

May Updates

Welcome back! I hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable Easter break and were able to spend some quality time together. As we begin the summer term, there is much to look forward to — from the final preparations for exams to a range of exciting events and celebrations across the school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support; it plays a vital role in helping our students thrive.

GCSE, A Level and BTEC Exams

I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents and carers of students sitting GCSE, A Level, and BTEC exams for your continued support in helping your children revise effectively. This half term may be short, but it is an intense and vital period in their educational journey. Our partnership with you during the exam season is more important than ever, so please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor or College Team if you have any questions or if your child needs any support. Working together, we can help ensure they feel confident and well-prepared in the weeks ahead.

Following on from the recent Year 11 walking talking mocks, Year 10 also took part in their own Religion and Worldview walking talking mocks. The students approached the sessions with focus and maturity, and their effort and conduct were truly exemplary. It was a valuable opportunity to build confidence and exam familiarity as they look ahead to next year. In addition to their own walking talking mocks, Year 11 also took part in wellbeing and careers sessions designed to support them both in the run-up to their exams and as they begin to plan for life beyond school. These sessions were very well received, and we're proud of the way our students continue to engage with all aspects of their development.

Warmer Weather

With the warmer weather now upon us, we kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that your children bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. Staying hydrated is essential, particularly during busy school days and in warmer conditions. Students are able to refill their bottles before and after school, as well as during break and lunch times, using the water stations available around the site. Thank you for your support in helping us keep students healthy and focused throughout the day.

Dance Showcase

We were delighted to see such an outstanding display of talent at the Dance Showcase on 24th April. The evening was a true celebration of creativity, dedication, and passion, with students from across year groups delivering powerful and polished performances. The variety of styles and choreography was exceptional, and it was clear how much hard work had gone into every routine. A huge well done to all the performers, and a big thank you to the staff who supported them and helped make the event such a success. It was a fantastic evening that truly showcased the strength of our creative arts community.

Year 11 Football Team – League and Cup Double!

A huge congratulations to our incredible Year 11 football team for their outstanding victory in the District Cup Final. After five years of near misses, the team finally won their first cup final in what was a brilliant performance, ending in a 5-2 win against St Joseph's. Over 30 family members were there to cheer them on and celebrate this special moment with the boys. Only a few days later they then beat Woodcote 5-2 to secure the league and cup double! We are incredibly proud of the whole squad.



World Book Day – Winners

To celebrate World Book Day this year, the library hosted a creative short story competition. The quality of the entries was outstanding, and staff thoroughly enjoyed reading them all.

With such a high standard of entries, choosing only three winners proved to be a real challenge for staff. I am delighted to announce the top three winning entries as follows

1st place - Harry Cook (10KMB) -The Epic of Adastraris

2nd place - Emily Burns (8ATK) - Alone.

3rd place with the best illustrated story is Ziva Vertovsek (7MLB) - Lost.

College VI Cultural Day

On the last day of term, College VI celebrated Cultural Day with students proudly wearing traditional dress from their cultures.

They also shared delicious food representing their cultural backgrounds creating a vibrant and joyful event. I was thrilled to see how many students participated and photos from the day will be available on the website shortly.

Attendance – Every lesson counts

In line with DFE guidance [‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’](#) we are amending the time the school register closes each morning. In order for us to adhere to this guidance, registers will close 30 minutes after the start of the school day and a code (U) will be recorded for any student arriving 30 minutes after their expected time at school. Therefore, if your child arrives to school after 9:00am, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, which impacts their overall attendance. We regularly remind students about the importance of attendance and punctuality and we would appreciate your support with this message.





Safeguarding Briefing

Supporting Student Wellbeing During Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it's an important time to reflect on the challenges young people can face — particularly as we enter the busy exam season. While assessments are a normal part of school life, the pressure to perform can sometimes take a toll on students' mental health and wellbeing. Stress is a natural response to pressure, but if it builds up, it can affect sleep, concentration, mood, and even physical health. As parents and carers, it's important to keep an eye out for signs such as irritability, anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, or extreme tiredness — all of which can indicate that your child might need some support. The good news is there are simple, effective ways to help manage stress. Encouraging regular breaks from revision, staying active, eating well, getting enough rest, and talking openly can make a real difference. Remind your child that seeking support — whether from family, friends, teachers, or our school pastoral team — is a strength, not a weakness.

Throughout May, we'll be sharing helpful resources, practical strategies, and opportunities to promote mental wellbeing. By working together, we can help ensure that every student feels supported, valued, and equipped to navigate this demanding time with confidence and care. Place2Be, our School Counselling provider has put together some guidance to support students during the examination period which is attached to this letter, this is appropriate for all examinations both public and internal.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne
Principal