



26th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

June Updates

Firstly, I hope you and your families have managed to stay safe and comfortable during the extreme weather this week. I want to extend my sincere thanks for your support over the last few days; your efforts in helping your children engage so successfully with our live lessons and remote learning platform have been greatly appreciated. We will be in touch shortly regarding the school events that unfortunately had to be postponed. Looking ahead, I am very much looking forward to returning to normality next week. The remainder of the term promises to be highly rewarding, with an exciting lineup of events and opportunities including school trips, another Duke of Edinburgh expedition, the Summer Concert, the Riddlesdown Festival, and Sports Day. I hope to see many of you at these events over the coming weeks.

Cultural Learning Week

Last week was a fantastic celebration of new experiences for all of our Key Stage 3 students. From educational trips to learning wonderful new skills, students had the opportunity to explore new interests right here in school, including martial arts, engineering, enterprise, sport, and the arts. It was wonderful to visit the sessions and see firsthand how engaged the students were and how much they were enjoying each activity.

Futures Week

On Monday 15th June, College VI hosted our most successful Futures Week yet. We had over 90 different sessions running for our Year 12 students to prepare them for their next steps beyond College VI. These covered a wide range of apprenticeship, university and employment experiences, as well as important life advice on finance, mental health and even cooking sessions. Key themes of the week included how there is not one set path to follow for success in the world of work, the importance of LinkedIn & networking and how to use AI effectively. We were also very happy to welcome back over a dozen of our ex-students, who were keen to share their experiences of life after College VI. In addition, our students all visited the University of Surrey for a day, enjoying tours and talks from current university students. Great thanks must go to our Careers Leader, Mrs Zena Hole, for organising such a fantastic and complex week of opportunities for our Year 12 students. Below you will find a quote from Amber in Year 12 which demonstrates the power of an excellent Careers Education!

“Futures week was massively insightful, and though I didn't (and still don't) know what exactly I want to do in the future, it gave me something invaluable; hope. Hearing the experiences of ex-students and career professionals alike demonstrated to me what it really means to be 'grown up' with a 'real world' job. For a while, I wasn't sure if there would be a place in the world left for me - particularly with the rise of AI - but this week gave me a glimpse into the infinite possibilities for my future. Truly, this week has been massively inspirational, and I feel colossal gratitude for organising such a week that really was as brilliant as promised.”



Riddlesdown Festival

The Riddlesdown Festival will now take place on Sunday 12th July at Riddlesdown from 11.00am to 5.00pm. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of arts and music, featuring a variety of stalls, food, and drink. We highly encourage families to come along, support the community, and enjoy the day together and we will send out more details of the schedule next week.

Year 10 Exams

Whilst we were fortunately able to hold the Physics exam this morning, the remaining rescheduled exams will now take place next week from Monday to Wednesday. Year 10 students must check their school emails carefully for full details and to access their revised exam timetables.

Countdown to Summer

I am pleased to inform you of our about our Countdown to Summer attendance rewards scheme, which starts on Monday 29th June will run for remainder of the Summer Term
Countdown to Summer - 100% attendance club:

- Students who have *100% attendance* over the next 3 weeks, from Monday 29th June to Friday 17th July, will be included in the 100% club at the end of the term.
- All students who achieve this, will receive a 100% attendance letter home on the last day of term.
- All students who achieve this, will also be entered into a prize draw to be invited to a pizza lunch served at lunchtime in school or win a *£30 Love2Shop voucher*.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday in full school uniform and with much cooler weather!

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne
Principal

Safeguarding Briefing

Staying Safe Around Water in Hot Weather

With the recent warm weather, we know that swimming can be a tempting way to cool down. However, we urge all parents to speak with their children about the serious risks associated with open water swimming. Reservoirs, rivers, and lakes can look inviting, but they often hide dangerous undercurrents, sudden drops in depth, and extreme cold that can cause sudden muscle cramps or cold water shock. **During May half-term alone, 19 people lost their lives – including 14 teenagers.** Please ensure your children only swim in supervised environments, such as public pools or lifeguarded beaches, where it is safe to do so and with your consent.