



23 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to express gratitude for your continued support. Your partnership allows us to create a supportive learning environment where students can thrive. It has been wonderful to see your appreciation for our staff with your heartfelt thank you messages recently.

I encourage you to take some time to catch up on all the amazing activities that took place this year and celebrate a momentous milestone of the School's 75th Anniversary! Our school newsletter, available here: [School newsletter](#) is packed with exciting stories, student achievements, and a special recap of our recent 75th anniversary celebrations. Be sure to watch the commemorative video – a beautiful tribute to the legacy of our school. [75th Anniversary!](#)

Looking ahead to the next school year

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, we are excited about new initiatives designed to enhance student learning. As part of this you will be aware of our ongoing commitment to create a safe and conducive learning environment, with mandatory phone pouches to safely lock mobile phones away during the time they are in school, so that they cannot be used.

Please note the important dates at the end of this letter for next academic year, particularly the six days spread across the school year that there will be a condensed school day schedule.

A condensed school day is a modified schedule that schools implement for teacher training. This approach will involve a shorter school day for students of 1.30pm and an extended day for school staff to enable staff to participate in professional development sessions. With a condensed school day, teachers can attend training sessions without requiring a substitute teacher for lessons. On a condensed day students will follow their regular school timetable, and the timings of lessons and breaks will be adjusted so that students finish school at 1.30pm

With this dedicated training time, teachers will develop new skills and stay current on best practices. This translates to better lesson planning, engaging teaching methods, and a

deeper understanding of student needs. We are tailoring our training to address specific areas where our standards most need improvement. These factors can all contribute to improved academic performance and improved school experiences for your child.

I am delighted to announce that, despite the local and national shortage of teachers, we are entering the new academic year fully staffed with dedicated subject specialists in every subject. This allows us to provide your child with the best possible education, ensuring they receive in-depth instruction from passionate professionals in every area.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child back for another successful year in September. In the meantime, we wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable summer break!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Whitehead".

Mrs C Whitehead
Principal



Key dates for September 2024 to July 2025:

First Day of Term:	Year 7 and Year 12 only	Wednesday 4 September
First Day of Term:	All other year groups	Thursday 5 September
Condensed day 1	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 1 October

Autumn half term holiday from Monday 21 October to Friday 1 November

Students return to school		Monday 4 November
Condensed day 2	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 26 November
End of term	Students finish at 12.35pm	Friday 20 December

Christmas Holiday from Monday 23 December to Monday 6 January

Students return to school		Tuesday 7 January
Condensed day 3	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 28 January

Spring half term holiday from Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Students return to school		Monday 24 February
Condensed day 4	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 18 March
End of term	Students finish at 12.35pm	Friday 4 April

Easter Holiday from Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April (Bank Holiday)

Students return to school		Tuesday 22 April
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Bank Holiday Monday 6 May

Condensed day 5	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 13 May
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Summer Half Term holiday from Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

Condensed day 6	Students finish at 1.30pm	Tuesday 1 July
End of term	Students finish at 12.35pm	Tuesday 22 April

We encourage you to visit our school website for more detailed information about the upcoming year, including the school calendar, uniform information, and curriculum updates.