



3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well as we approach the start of the new school year. I trust you and your families have enjoyed a great summer break. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, filled with potential and new beginnings. We are looking forward to seeing students to begin another year of growth and learning.

Staff have been preparing diligently to ensure that this year will be filled with engaging learning opportunities, personal growth, and achievements both in and out of the classroom. I am pleased that despite the local and national shortage of teachers, we are fully staffed with dedicated subject specialists in every subject.

Please read the important information below to help prepare for the term ahead.

Returning to school:

Year 7 and Year 12 students start on Wednesday 4th September

All other year groups return on Thursday, 5th September

Site Improvements: While the school has been emptier, without the usual vibrant environment of students, the school has been far from quiet. Over the summer, our dedicated team has been hard at work on various projects to enhance our learning environment. These improvements include: A new Sixth Form common room with Café for our Sixth Form students to relax and socialise in a more independent environment; a dedicated Pastoral Hub has been established to provide students with additional support and guidance, the first phase of the installation of energy-efficient LED lighting has taken place to improve lighting quality and reduce our carbon footprint; many areas of the school have also undergone redecoration to create a more welcoming and inspiring atmosphere.

Mobile Phones: As part of our ongoing commitment to create a safe and conducive learning environment, students will be using mobile phone pouches on their return to school this week. These pouches safely lock mobile phones away during the time they are in school, so that they cannot be used. If you have not already done so, please purchase the phone pouch from the school shop. Should you require additional support with this, please get in touch and we will see how we can assist: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=56>.

Students will receive their pouches in tutor time on their first day and lock their phone away in their pouch to remain in their school bag. Students will unlock their phone at the end of the school day. We expect all students to adhere to this school rule. Mobile phones are banned in school

and if a student chooses to break this school rule their phone will be confiscated and parents contacted.

Uniform: A reminder of school uniform expectations was sent to you on 19th August to ensure your child has the required uniform and learning kit. It is essential that all students attend school in the correct uniform and with the correct learning kit every day. Please refer to the website for further information: <https://www.chalfonts.org/parents/uniform-1>

Important dates: Please note the dates in this letter, particularly the six days spread across the school year that there will be a condensed school day schedule. On condensed days there will be an early finish to the day for students at 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.

Parents evenings and information evenings: In addition to parent teacher consultation evenings in which you have the opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress with their class teachers, all year groups will have a separate information evening for parents. On these evenings there will be presentations from your child's Year Leader and Subject Leaders with important information on what your child will be learning and how they will be assessed. We strongly encourage you to attend these evenings in which you will also meet your child's tutor and Year Leader.

This year, we will continue to build on our strengths and introduce new initiatives that further enrich our students' experiences. We will keep you informed about these developments and invite you to participate in school events, meetings, and activities.

As our school logo represents, education is a partnership between the school and home, and we value the vital role that you, as parents and carers, play in your child's education. Your involvement, encouragement, and support are crucial to their success. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to support your child's learning and well-being.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal



Key Dates:

First Day of Term:	Year 7 and Year 12 only	Wednesday 4 September
First Day of Term:	All other year groups	Thursday 5 September
Year 7 Parents Information Evening (6-7pm)		Tuesday 17 September
School Photos	Year 7, 9, 11 and 12	Wednesday 18 September
Year 11 Parents Information Evening (6-7pm)		Tuesday 24 September
Condensed day 1 Students finish at 1.30pm		Tuesday 1 October
Year 10 Parents Information Evening (6-7pm)		Tuesday 1 October
School Open Evening		Wednesday 9 October

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

Students return to school		Monday 4 November
Year 8 Parents Information Evening (6-7pm)		Tuesday 5 November
Sixth Form Open Evening		Thursday 14 November
Condensed day 2 Students finish at 1.30pm		Tuesday 26 November
Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening with Teachers		Thursday 12 December
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
Year 9 Parents Information Evening (6-7pm)		Tuesday 14 January
Year 11 Parents Evening with Teachers		Thursday 23 January
Condensed day 3 Students finish at 1.30pm		Tuesday 28 January
Year 9 Parents Evening with Teachers		Thursday 6 February

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)

Year 8 Parents Evening with Teachers Thursday 1 May

Students return to school Tuesday 22 April

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May

Condensed day 5 Students finish at 1.30pm Tuesday 13 May

Summer Half Term holiday from Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

Year 7 Parents Evening with Teachers Thursday 5 June

Year 10 Parents Evening with Teachers Thursday 19 June

Condensed day 6 Students finish at 1.30pm Tuesday 1 July

End of term Students finish at 12.35pm Tuesday 22 July

<https://www.chalfonts.org/parents/term-dates>

Year	RT	Date to Issue Report	Marks Due on Arbor	Date of Parents' Evening	CWG	TPG	EXAM	AtL	AtH
7	BL	15 November 2024	06 November 2024				✓	✓	✓
	1	04 April 2025	26 March 2024	05 June 2025	✓			✓	✓
8	1	04 April 2025	26 March 2024	01 May 2025	✓			✓	✓
9	1	06 June 2025	21 May 2025	06 February 2025	✓			✓	✓
10	1	06 December 2024	27 November 2024		✓			✓	✓
	2	06 June 2025	21 May 2025	19 June 2025	✓		✓	✓	✓
11	1	17 January 2025	08 January 2025	23 January 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2	07 March 2025	26 February 2025		✓	✓		✓	✓
12	1	06 December 2024	27 November 2024	12 Decemeber 2024	✓			✓	✓
	2	18 July 2025	09 July 2025	04 July 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	1	06 December 2024	27 November 2024	12 Decemeber 2024	✓	✓		✓	✓
	2	07 March 2025	26 February 2025		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓