

9th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of Year Letter

I write to you at the end of a particularly busy and eventful year, and I would like to pay tribute to the staff who, yet again, have gone way beyond what would ordinarily be expected. I hope the students at the school appreciate how lucky they are to have such committed people working to give them the very best education that we can.

I would also like to thank you all – parents and carers – for your outstanding support. We work best when we work together and I feel that we have combined our efforts well this year to support each other in supporting your children.

Friday 17th July is the last day of term, and students will be dismissed from 12:00pm. School will recommence at 08:30am on Friday 4th September for new Year 7 students and on Monday 7th September for students in Years 8 to 13. KS5 students have received information about enrolment and re-enrolment where necessary on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September.

We will send out a reminder about our expectations for uniform and appearance, but please ensure that you sons and daughters have all the equipment they need for their lessons and adhere to the school uniform policy. Please refer to the school website or phone the school if you are unsure.

If your phone-number, email or home address details change over the summer, please update these details on your Arbor app so that our records are accurate and we can contact you in case of an emergency. Please note the following key dates for next term:

Wednesday 9 th September	Yr7 parents' welcome evening (15:30-16:30)
Monday 14 th September	6 th Form retreat to Aylesford
Tuesday 15 th September	Yr11 & 6 th Form parents' information evenings (16:00-17:00)
Monday 21 st September	Yr7 retreat to Aylesford
Wednesday 23 rd September	Yr6 Open evening (16:00-18:00)
Wednesday 21 st October	Yr10 parents' evening
Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day
Monday 2 nd November	INSET Day
Wednesday 4 th November	Yr11 academic review day
Thursday 12 th November	6 th Form Open evening (16:00-18:00)
Monday 16 th November	Founder's Day
Wednesday 18 th November	Yr8 parents' evening
Monday 7 th December	Staff Development Day (school closed to students)
Thursday 17 th December	Carol concert

We say farewell to some long-standing members of our staff this year; Mr Coombes, Dr Murphy and Mr Campbell are all moving on to new ventures. We also say a huge thank-you and farewell to Mr Ernest Rhoden OBE. Mr Rhoden joined the school in 1983 and he was awarded his OBE for services to education in 2021. He is, undoubtedly one of the longest-serving members of staff in the country, if not the longest, and he will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. He has been a great support to many, many staff over the decades and I hope that he will enjoy a well-earned retirement.

Other staff are also leaving us and more details will be in *The Companion* Newsletter, which you will receive next week.

I wish all students who sat external examinations the very best of luck this summer, and I hope that all families have a restful summer break.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M. Anthony
Headmaster