



Re: Headteacher Update January 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Happy new year!

A very happy new year to all our families. I hope you were able to enjoy a peaceful and merry Christmas break. It was lovely to welcome our students back to school this week ready for the Spring term.

Attendance

As you know, we continue to focus on supporting our students to achieve good attendance. We were really grateful to the various people and companies who sponsored our December attendance campaign. The last few weeks before Christmas tend to be the weeks where our attendance decreases, so I'm delighted to tell you that we saw a rise in attendance in December in 2025 when compared with December 2024. Thank you to all our families for ensuring their children are in school, except when they are too unwell to attend. Your support is invaluable.

Reporting absence

We have now turned on the ability for you to report your child's absence via Classcharts. Please aim to report absence in this way going forward. Very soon, there will only be this option and a phonecall option and the email addresses for attendance will no longer be in use.

Homework on Classcharts

As of this week, we are aiming to use Classcharts to indicate what homework your child has and when it is due. Please bear with us as it is likely to take a little while for all staff to get into the swing of this, but we are all aiming to make this a priority.

Update building works

Our temporary sports hall is nearly finished and we hope to start using this within the next two weeks. The demolition date of the buildings being replaced (including the two gyms) is yet to be confirmed but it will be in the near future. We are very much looking forward to everything getting started!

After school detention

Please can all parents/carers ensure that if their child is given an after-school detention, they attend this. These detentions are given if a student misses lunchtime detention twice or if they truant lessons. Previously, the sanction for missing lunchtime detentions and truancy was to attend reset, but we felt this meant students were missing out on important lesson time. Unfortunately, we have received phonecalls and emails from some parents saying that their child cannot serve detention after school, even

with significant notice. Our school policy is very clear that we expect students to attend after school detention if they have been given one. Please support our school and your child by ensuring they follow the rules and policies of the school. If students follow school rules and policies, they will not be given an after-school detention and this is the best way to avoid having to serve one. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have supported their child to attend after school detentions in the last term, and for talking to them about how to avoid these in future.

School Show

We are very excited for this year's school show, High School Musical, which will be performed on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th Feb (in the evening). We look forward to welcoming our families to this event! Tickets will be available through [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

Welcome back Mr Gardner!

I am absolutely delighted to inform you that Mr Gardner has finished his cancer treatment and is back with us in school. It has made the start of 2026 a very special year for the school. The staff and students have missed Mr Gardner very much in the last six months and we are over the moon to have him back with us! Please be aware that Mrs Emma Wilson will remain as designated safeguarding lead for the school for the moment, with Mr Gardner taking this back over in due course. Our safeguarding poster is available on our website detailing our safeguarding team should you ever need to look at this.

Safeguarding information

As always, I have included safeguarding information for families. This month's focus is a useful family tips sheet about helping young people fight cyberbullying and other mean online behaviour. I hope you find it useful.

Communication Code

A quick reminder that we have a communication code which details who you need to contact and when if there is an issue – this can be found on our website. Your first point of contact will usually be your child's head of year who can then point you in the direction of the relevant member of staff. Please do email the general school enquiries address if you are unsure who you need to speak to and your email will be forwarded to the right person to help. Please be aware that emails sent directly for my attention or the attention of a member of the senior team that have not taken account of the due process in the communication code are redirected back to the member of staff who should initially be dealing with them. Thank you for your support with this.

I look forward to writing to you in February with more information. I wish you and your young people a successful, happy and healthy Spring term 2026.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher