



## From the Headteacher - 17 April 2026

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Dear Parents

I hope you had an enjoyable break. In our weekly staff briefing this week, I mentioned how the Summer Term in particular feels like the one where we "hit the ground running" the fastest, not least because of the relatively short amount of time remaining before the summer examinations begin.

### **Timetable Changes**

As communicated by Mr Dempsey last week, there have been a few updates made to the timetable from this week, due to some staff changes; pupils have been asked to review their timetables to ensure they are aware of any changes to their lessons for the term ahead.

The latest timetables can be found on Satchel One and Parent Gateway.

### **Mobile phones**

As we start the new term, it has been impressive to see how pupils have responded to the amendments to our mobile phone policy, in line with the government's current non-statutory guidance and as outlined in the emails from Heads of Year just before the Easter break. This week, Form Tutors have also given pupils clear reminders of the rules around mobile phone use for their year group. These amendments only serve to strengthen our existing policy, and Heads of Department are continuing to work on solutions for removing supervised use of mobile phones from the curriculum as we move towards September. Miss Tapscott will also provide further details in her pastoral update email later this term.

Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. If you do need to contact your child urgently during the school day, please do so via our reception team by calling 01452 338400, or email [info@strs.org.uk](mailto:info@strs.org.uk) (this inbox is monitored throughout the day).

### **Summer Term Uniform**

Just a reminder that, as stated in our [Uniform Policy](#), pupils may wear the white crested short-sleeved shirt without a tie after the May bank holiday (Monday 4 May). A reminder too that this crested shirt is not a compulsory uniform item, and if worn with a jumper after Monday 4 May, it must still be worn with a tie.

If we experience warmer weather during the Summer Term, there will be the usual update to pupils to let them know that, if and when temperatures get particularly hot, ties and blazers may be removed for a period of time. Further details on this will be sent nearer the time.

### **New Student Leadership Team**

I am delighted to announce that after an extensive recruitment process, we have now appointed our new Student Leadership Team for the next academic year (2026-27).

The new School Captains are Eilidh C (12G) and Michael M (12C), and their Deputy Captains are Evie C (12S) and Henry D (12G). The full list of Student Leaders, including the Observator Team and the School Prefects can be found below:

[The full 2026-27 Student Leadership Team](#)

There will now be a steady handover to the new team from the current team, who have done a fantastic job this year supporting the running and leadership of the School. We look forward to the official Gowning Ceremony for the new team in September.

### **House Competition and Founders' Fortnight**

The House Competition continues in earnest next week with House Tennis, followed by House Cooking the week after, which this year focuses on vegan baking. Pupils in Years 7-9 are invited to deliver their labelled entries to Mrs Phillips in the Food Technology building at the start of the school day on the following dates: Year 7 – Monday 27 April, Year 8 – Tuesday 28 April, and Year 9 – Thursday 30 April.

The sheer volume of fundraising activities for our Founders' Fortnight last term meant that we were unfortunately unable to announce the winning House and Form Group in the final assembly; this was due to the time it was taking to count the proceeds – much of it in loose change, of course. The current amount of money raised is just under £5,000 – an incredible achievement, and up on last year's total. There are still more contributions being added to the collective fundraising effort for PMM Girls' School in Uganda, and we hope to announce the winning House and Form

Group in our next whole-school assembly.

### Open Days and Admissions Test Changes

Next week, we look forward to our spring Open Days for Year 7 entry to the School, which take place on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Our current Year 8 pupils will once again act as tour guides following the welcome talks and will, I am sure, be excellent ambassadors for the School.

As you may have seen earlier this week, we are also really pleased to announce our move to a new Grammar School Admissions Test provider for 2028 entry. The move to *Future Stories Community Enterprise (FSCE)* comes after a thorough consultation process, carried out in partnership with the other Gloucestershire Grammar Schools (G7), and is driven by the desire to ensure that our admissions test is as fair, appropriate and accessible as possible, with questions focusing only on knowledge and skills covered up to Key Stage 2. We also hope that moving the date of the test to the summer term of Year 5 (rather than September of Year 6) will eliminate the 'learning gap' that naturally occurs over a long summer holiday, whilst also reducing the burden on Key Stage 2 pupils in preparing for the test over their summer holiday.

Full details of this change can be found in the press release below :

[Press release](#)

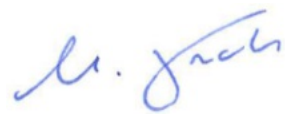
### Extracurricular Update

The Easter break was a busy period for school trips, with our Netball players enjoying a tour of Malta, pupils in Years 9-11 embarking on the ski trip to Les Orres in France, and Year 12 pupils completing the Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition near Abergavenny. My thanks go to all staff who led and supported these trips, and to Mrs Coady (Educational Visits Officer) for all her hard work in overseeing our trips provision.

Looking ahead, this weekend the Ten Tors Wild Camp will be taking place; we wish everyone taking part the very best of luck in what is certainly a challenging and intensive expedition. Best of luck also goes to our Cricket teams from all year groups, who take on Bloxham School in Oxfordshire both home and away.

Finally, having completed their mock examinations so well this week, I also wish Year 10 all the very best for their Careers Enrichment next week – I hope the experience is a useful insight into the world of work.

With best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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