



From the Headteacher - 1 May 2026

Dear Parents

With the arrival of the warmer weather last week, we were pleased to be able to re-open the field for pupils to use at break and lunchtime; Form Tutors have reminded pupils of the rules for safe and appropriate use of the field, including where to store bags, the location of our designated year group areas, and how we will notify pupils of the field being closed due to wet weather on a particular day. Last week we also welcomed nearly 300 families to our Spring Open Days, with our Year 8 pupils acting as tour guides once again. There was high praise indeed for how Year 8 conducted themselves as guides, with many prospective parents and pupils commenting on their welcoming, knowledgeable and engaging approach to showcasing both the *Tommy's Way* and their overall pride in the School.

PTFA Quiz and Pudding Night

A final reminder that the PTFA Quiz and Pudding Night takes place tonight, and tickets can be bought up until 5.00pm today. Doors open at 7.00pm, with the quiz starting at 7.30pm in the main hall. Tickets cost £7.50 per person, available from the [PTFA shop](#). This is always a highly enjoyable event and a great way to support the continued hard work of the PTFA in their incredible fundraising for the School.

Best of luck and many thanks to all those of you supporting the PTFA this evening.

Summer Uniform Expectations

A reminder that normal school uniform should continue to be worn this term, and that expectations remain high for how uniform is to be worn. Further to my last email, from Tuesday 5 May, pupils may wear the crested short-sleeve shirt without a tie, should they wish.

As also previously mentioned, I will endeavour to let pupils and parents know by email if and when the weather justifies a declaration of 'officially hot'. Such a declaration is something of a Tommy's tradition and means that, should the weather become particularly hot, pupils do not need to wear blazers or ties, and shirt top buttons should be undone if pupils choose not to wear ties. Shirts, however, should still be tucked in.

Lockdown Practice

The next practice of our lockdown procedure is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5 May at 10.50am. The drill will help to familiarise pupils and staff with the procedures to follow should the lockdown alarm sound, for example in the event of an intruder or other threat. In morning registrations on or before Tuesday 5 May, Form Tutors will discuss the practice with pupils to prepare them and answer any questions they may have. Form Tutors will explain what the alarm will sound like, and what to do when it sounds. While we do not wish to scare pupils, it is important that this drill takes place calmly and appropriately to support our overall safety planning for the School. If your son or daughter has any concerns, before, during or after the practice, please do ask them to speak with their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or member of the Pastoral Team.

Examinations and Changes to the Timetable

Public examinations started after the Easter break, with the MFL speaking examinations taking place last week. Art and Photography practical examinations have been running all this week, alongside PE GCSE and A Level moderation. Written GCSE and A Level examinations begin on Thursday 7 May and run through to Tuesday 23 June, with the main contingency day on Wednesday 24 June.

Next Wednesday (6 May) marks the last day of formal lessons for our Year 11 and 13 students before they begin their study leave. In my final assembly of last term I once again reminded Year 11 and 13 that, whilst of course important, GCSE and A Level results will not define you as an individual – they will not be the one thing you are known for; everything you have achieved in all areas and the person you are is what is important. However, taking the opportunity to work hard now and aiming to achieve your very best is all that can be asked of you; a long, rewarding summer holiday hopefully then awaits.

In wishing Year 11 and 13 (and those taking external examinations in Years 10 and 12) all the very best for their upcoming study leave and examinations, I would also remind students that we are far from the end of our time together; support remains in place for any concerns during the examination period and beyond, be they subject queries, personal issues or questions about next steps.

For your awareness, as in previous years, from Thursday 7 May there will be an adjustment to the timetable to allow for an earlier lunchtime during the examination period. This is to ensure noise is minimised for the afternoon examinations, which start at 1.30pm. Lunch will start at 12.25pm and finish at 1.15pm, and Periods 4 and 5 will take place after lunch.

[Adjusted timetable](#)

Music Successes

As you may have seen on our website or social media channels, I am delighted to share some notable musical successes this week, including the news that our Choir Captain, Sachin in 13H, has not only received an offer to study Modern and Medieval Languages at Queen's College, Cambridge, but has also been awarded a prestigious Choral Scholarship. This honour is particularly significant given the highly competitive nature of these awards, which recognise only those with exceptional vocal talent and near professional-level performance ability.

In addition, Sam in 10C has been shortlisted in the Junior category of the *Carducci String Quartet Young Composers' Competition*. The award-winning Carducci String Quartet is internationally acclaimed, and the musicians are regular visitors to the School. We should know shortly if Sam has made it to the final, which takes place on Friday 15 May as part of the Carducci Festival at Highnam, near Gloucester.

Huge congratulations go to both Sam and Sachin.

Jazz Band

Continuing the theme of music, our Jazz Band takes to the free stage at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival on Saturday 2 May in Montpellier Gardens at 1.00pm. If you are in Cheltenham and would like to go along, Mr Hinton and the musicians would be very pleased to see you there.

Commercial Lets

Parents may be aware that it is possible to rent our school facilities for children's parties, exercise classes, badminton groups, dance classes and more. In particular, we currently have some availability for our Gymnasium (sometimes referred to as the Old Gym) on selected weeknights and at weekends at very reasonable rates. There are badminton and basketball courts marked out, basketball hoops are in place, and large crash mats and benches are available to use free of charge. Slots can be booked online via the link below, or if you have any questions, please do email facilities@strs.org.uk.

[Book our facilities](#)

Key Dates

Please find below a reminder of some key dates for the Summer Term:

- Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday, school closed
- Friday 22 May – end of half term, usual 3.20pm finish time
- Monday 1 June – start of term
- Friday 26 June – INSET day; school closed to pupils
- Thursday 2 July – Sports Evening
- Thursday 9 July – Summer Concert
- Friday 17 July – end of Summer Term, 12.45pm finish

Finally, the very best of luck goes to all pupils undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions from tomorrow – fingers crossed the weather does not break as much as is perhaps forecast.

I hope you have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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