



From the Headteacher - 3 July 2026

Dear Parents

As I probably mentioned this time last year, at this point in the calendar, we cannot help but notice how much overlap there is between the 'beginnings' and the 'ends' of an academic year. Last Friday, at Cheltenham Town Hall, yet another extremely successful Prom took place for Year 13, where we congratulated them on their incredible hard work and wished them an enjoyable and well-deserved summer break. 24 hours earlier, last Thursday, we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils for their first taster lessons, who very much enjoyed the opportunity to chat with our current Year 7. Similarly, this week, Year 11 pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's and across the county have joined us to experience A Level taster lessons, meet our current Year 12 and hear all about our support for post-18 destinations too.

These events would not be as successful or indeed as popular as they are without the commitment and organisation given by our Key Stage teams, along with subject teachers who have been concurrently feeding back on end-of-year examinations, whilst simultaneously providing induction lessons to set out the very start of the curriculum journey through the School.

Sports Evening

Yesterday evening saw our annual celebration of sport at the School and the conclusion of the year's House competition. We are enormously grateful for the support of parents last night – the crowd on the side of the track and field events felt bigger than ever. The addition of the House-coloured flags and home-made banners certainly gave the event a fantastic feeling of competitive spirit and camaraderie.

Congratulations to Southgate House, who won the Athletics Cup, with the results being:

- 1st – Southgate
- 2nd – Northgate
- 3rd – Westgate
- 4th – Newgate
- 5th – Eastgate

As I said in the presentation at the end of the evening, a huge thank you and congratulations go to all pupils who put themselves forward to represent their House, and to those who supported their peers so positively. The evening would also not have been such a success without thanks to our PTFA for their incredible efforts once again running the bar and BBQ, and to our staff for co-ordinating and overseeing the student stalls, the Eco Club's veg shop, and the track and field events.

Particular mention goes to Mr Payne (Head of PE and Games) for leading the event, and to our PE and Games staff and volunteers for their dedication to extracurricular sport throughout the year once again.

We now look forward to presenting the Cock House trophy to the overall winning House in the final assembly of the year.

Summer Concert

A reminder that our Summer Concert takes place next week, on Thursday 9 July; as ever, the evening promises to be a wonderful showcase of the musical talent that exists in our school, and a lovely way to conclude the school year. Tickets cost just £5 and £4 concessions. My thanks to the PTFA, who will be running the bar once again, and you can pre-order charcuterie cups for £5 each (with a vegetarian option available).

It would be great to see you next week - tickets can be purchased and food pre-ordered [here](#).

Culture Day

Our annual Culture Day takes place on Friday 10 July, which is also a non-uniform day with donations going to *Lives of Colour*, a charity promoting diversity and inclusion in business, education and government.

Pupils are invited to wear traditional or cultural dress if they wish and are also encouraged to contribute dishes for the food festival in the main hall during lunchtime, something which is always a highlight of the day. All food should be accompanied by a full list of ingredients – for more details on how to donate, please see the notice posted on Satchel One. Our Culture Day would not be possible without the creativity and hard work of our Student Leadership Team.

Lab 7 Update

Further to my previous email, I am delighted to say that the refurbishment of Lab 7 continues at pace, with furniture arriving last Friday and being installed over the weekend. The entire lab has been painted, and the floor and brand-new benches have all been installed, and it is starting to look amazing. The work will be finished over the summer, with services being installed over the coming weeks. We hope to publish photographs of the transformation very soon.

Solar Panel Installation

On the subject of site developments, I am pleased to confirm that over the summer holidays, we will be aiming to install solar panels on the roofs of the Sports Hall and Main Hall as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and reducing the School's environmental impact.

After a long and thorough tender process, this investment will enable the School to generate approximately 125,410 kWh of renewable electricity each year. As a result, we expect to save around £26,000 annually on energy costs, meaning the project is anticipated to pay for itself within four to five years. It goes without saying that this capital expenditure will be hugely important in helping us to manage the School's challenging annual financial position. Looking ahead, the installation is projected to deliver total savings of approximately £518,000 over the next 20 years.

In addition to the financial benefits, the environmental impact will be significant; according to the installation company, there will be an estimated reduction in carbon emissions equivalent to 24,755 tonnes of CO₂ - the same as planting more than 1,100 trees. We also hope to receive a real-time display for pupils and staff to monitor the level of electricity being generated throughout the year.

This project represents an important step towards creating a more sustainable future while ensuring that more of the School's resources can be invested directly into supporting our pupils.

Uniform Expectations Next Week

Our daily monitoring of the weather forecast continues, and it looks as though temperatures are set to rise again next week, with up to 30 degrees forecast. As such, from next Monday (6 July), pupils in Years 7 to 10 are invited to wear their branded PE kit (STRS blue shorts and white t-shirt) with socks and trainers once again; the usual uniform trousers and white shirt, without a tie and blazer, remains an option if they wish. Students in Year 12 may wear their own appropriate warm-weather clothing, i.e. shorts and a t-shirt, with closed-back shoes for health and safety reasons around the School site. The usual uniform without ties and blazers also remains an option if they wish. A reminder that Friday is our Culture Day, where cultural dress or free dress is encouraged.

Pupils continue to be advised to bring a sun hat and sunscreen for use when outside the School buildings and when travelling to and from school; pupils are also reminded to stay hydrated throughout each day and to avoid prolonged time in direct sunshine during breaktime and lunchtime.

Once again, I really do appreciate parental support as we try to align weather forecasts with appropriate uniform expectations – this is never an exact science.

We will review the forecast towards the end of the week, and inform pupils and parents of the uniform expectations for the final week of term.

Knight Stokes Cup

Huge congratulations and best of luck to our U15A Cricket Team, who are through to the last 16 of the inaugural national Knight Stokes Cup, playing at Rugby School next week. If the team wins its two games on Monday, they will play in the National Semi-Final at Headingley; beyond this, the final is being held at Lord's in September. With over 700 teams initially having entered, this is already an incredible achievement. The team are also through to the final of the County Cup.

End of Term

Finally, just a reminder that we finish at 12.45pm on Friday 17 July (bus arrangements will be communicated shortly), but along with updates for Head of Year and Heads of Key Stage, I will be in touch again before the end of term.

Best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.



Matthew Lynch
HEADTEACHER

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