



Message from  
5th September 2025

Mr O'Sullivan

### Welcome to the New Term

The new academic year has begun with great energy and excitement. We're thrilled to welcome 165 new Year 7 students and 130 new Sixth Formers to our school community. Alongside all our returning students, we wish them the very best for the year ahead.

If you haven't yet read our [Special Edition Newsletter](#), please do take a moment to explore the incredible GCSE and A-Level results our students achieved over the summer. We are immensely proud of their hard work and success.

Our House System is now fully up and running, and we'll be sharing much more about it throughout the year. We're especially delighted to have received correspondence from both Sir David Attenborough and Dr Brian May, who are honoured to have Houses named after them.



The launch of Yondr pouches has gone very smoothly, with the vast majority of students choosing to use them. This allows them to keep their phones with them while enjoying a digital break during the school day. Thank you to everyone who has written in support of this initiative, and to the many families who responded promptly to emails and payment reminders. You can find all the information about the pouches on our updated [webpage](#). Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the process and associated sanctions so that nothing comes as a surprise to your child—we've already covered this thoroughly in school. We firmly believe this

change will support our students' mental health and help build the resilience to thrive without constant phone use.

### Important Notice: Fraudulent App Alert

Please be aware that a fraudulent app is currently circulating on the Apple App Store, posing as ParentPay. ParentPay has issued a warning on their website—please check there for more details and ensure you are using the official app.

### Site Access Reminder

A gentle reminder to all parents of new students: there is no dropping off, picking up, or parking on the school site, including the area in front of the garden centre. Parents should not go beyond the green main school gates to collect children. If you have a scheduled meeting with a member of staff, please note that parking is not permitted on site. All bays are allocated to staff, and unauthorised parking can disrupt lessons if staff are delayed in reaching their classrooms.

## School Show



## Do you wanna build a snowman?

Rehearsals for **Frozen** start on the following dates and times:

Y7-8	<p>Performing Arts Club – Wednesdays 3:10-4:00pm in the hall (starting on 10th Sept)</p> <p>Come along to Performing Arts Club from Sept-Dec to have fun, make new friends and learn some songs and scenes from the show – then decide at Christmas whether you'd like to be in the show.</p>
Y9-13	<p>Introduction workshop – Tuesday 9th Sept 3:10-4:30</p> <p>Come along to find out more about the show and how we'll be casting principal characters, try out some scenes and learn one of the songs!</p> <p>Rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays from 3:10-4:30 and some Wednesdays (scheduled for different people).</p>

## Less technology, better attendance

We aim for every student's attendance to be at 96% or above!

We are sure that you are aware of the ongoing discussions across the country, and even within parliament, regarding students and their use of mobile phones. This is an important topic that affects our children's health and academic performance.

Our school attendance team, along with the PLUS team, has been engaging in regular discussions with students. Many of them have shared that they are on their mobile phones until late in the evening. This habit is leading to late bedtimes and poor-quality sleep, which in turn affects their focus and performance in lessons.

To help our students achieve better sleep and improve their focus in school, we encourage parents to take the following steps:

1. **Limit Screen Time:** Set a reasonable limit on the amount of time your child spends on their mobile phone each day.
2. **Create a Plan:** Work with your child to agree on a plan for mobile phone use, including specific times when they should put their phones away.
3. **No Charging in Bedrooms:** Do not allow mobile phones to be charged in bedrooms overnight. This simple step can significantly reduce the temptation to use devices late into the night.

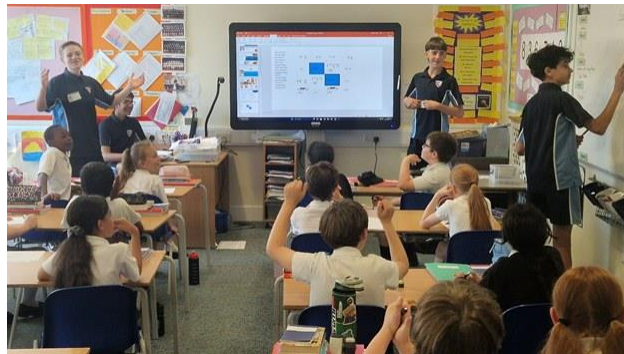
By working together, we can help our students develop healthier habits that will benefit their sleep, focus, and overall well-being.





## Year 9 Spanish students

Last term, an excellent group of Year 9 students went to Bishop Perrin School to give Year 5 and 6 a taster lesson of Spanish. They prepared lessons on food and family members and were exceptional ambassadors for the school. All students - both primary and secondary - thoroughly enjoyed it; Year 6 even asked if they could be their permanent Spanish teachers. Well done to all involved!



## PE Sports Clubs – Term 1

The PE Department are excited to share the sports clubs which will be running this term. Almost all of these clubs start next week (week commencing 8th September) but students can check with the PE Department if they are unsure. Students simply turn up with their PE kit, get changed in the changing rooms and make their way to the area where that club will be running.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:15am – 8:15am			7:30am start: All years fitness (GYM) with Mr Berrett	All Years Cross Country (FIELD) with Mr Evans	
12:45pm – 1:15pm	All years girls cricket indoor nets (HALL) with Ms Johnson			Year 10, 11 & sixth form volleyball (HALL) with Mr Quigley	All years dance (GYM) with Ms Britton
3:10pm – 4:10pm	Year 7, 8 & 9 boys football (FIELD) with Mr Webb and Mr Cowan  All years netball (MUGA) with Ms Johnson	Year 10 & 11 boys football (FIELD) with Mr Quigley	All years boys rugby (FIELD) with Harlequins  All years girls rugby (FIELD) with Harlequins	All years girls football (FIELD) with Mr McGlennan and Mr Webb  Year 7, 8 & 9 basketball (HALL) with Richmond Knights*	Judo club (GYM) with Coach Ben*

\*Paid club - sign up with provider. This has been communicated home so speak to parents.

## Student Sporting Success in Football

During the summer break, Stanley J, now in Year 11, earned the opportunity to train with the U16 Northern Ireland football team for four days, which ran over two weeks in August. Taking note of the high standard of coaches and players, Stanley did a great job at impressing them with his skill level and work rate, and showed he is able to keep up with the best of them. Many of the players in the academy train full time and have played together for two years. Stanley is hoping to be invited back into the training camp soon. Very impressive work, Stanley; a huge well done!



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Dan McAteer, Matt Fiddes  
Martial Arts & Dance