



12 December 2025

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all the families who have joined us for College events this week and for the feedback you have shared. We were delighted by the fantastic turnout at the Year 9 Options Evening last night and truly appreciate the positive comments about the advice and guidance provided. Your engagement makes a real difference, and we value the time and effort you give during this busy season.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Concert this evening, which is another sell-out event, and to our Annual Awards Evening next Wednesday, 17 December, where we will welcome back our 2025 Year 11 and Year 13 students to celebrate their incredible achievements. These occasions are a highlight of the year and a reminder of the talent and dedication within our College community.

### **Preparing for the New Academic Year 2026**

When we return after the holiday, on Tuesday, 6 January 2026, all students in Years 7–13 will take part in assemblies led by myself and the Deputy Principals to ensure everyone is prepared for the term ahead. We have already made adjustments to some Year 11 timetables following Exam Series 1 and will continue to fine-tune placements so that every student is in the right class with the right teacher.

A special well done to our Year 10 and Year 12 students for their excellent completion rates in internal assessments. We are immensely proud of all our students and are grateful to families for the support that makes these accomplishments possible.

### **Co-Curricular Programme 2026 – A New Chapter for Student Opportunities**

For many years, the College has successfully run an Enrichment Week at the end of the academic year for students in Years 7–10, offering a wide range of cross-curricular activities both on and off-site. These experiences have provided valuable opportunities in sports, arts, and cultural development, and feedback from students, parents and carers has consistently highlighted the positive impact on character development and exploration beyond the core curriculum.

However, in recent years, challenges such as financial constraints and reduced attendance have made it clear that a new approach is needed to ensure every student benefits fully. With this in mind, the College will use the last three days of the summer term (Monday, 20 July – Wednesday, 22 July 2026) as a transition period to prepare for the launch of our new Co-Curricular Programme in September 2026.

This exciting new model will replace the single end-of-year event with regular, fortnightly opportunities throughout the academic year, giving students access to a variety of enrichment activities designed to build skills and experiences over time. This sustained approach will enable students to work towards extra-curricular award such as Duke of Edinburgh and Arts Awards if they wish. Our ambition is that students will engage in a variety of enrichment activities such as, but not limited to, outdoor education, creative clubs, leadership opportunities and service for communities that they share a passion for. These opportunities will be rooted in our character education values of citizenship, leadership and personal growth.

We are sharing this update now to reassure families that the previous cost of enrichment week will not be a financial pressure for this academic year. Whilst some opportunities may incur a cost, this will be kept as minimal as possible to remove barriers and allow access for all.

The College will continue to offer residential trips and subject-specific visits in areas such as Languages, History, and Sports Academies, with subsidies available for students who require

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financial support. Our commitment remains to make these experiences accessible and impactful for every student.

Further details will be shared with families in the New Year, giving plenty of time to prepare for this exciting new chapter.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership. We wish you a joyful festive season and look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

**Principal**