



Headteacher: John Holmes MA(Cantab) MTeach EdD

Deputy Headteachers: Chloe Limbrick BSc, Adem Osbourn MChem

16 October 2025

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have hosted open mornings for parents and carers of prospective Year 7 students, following our open evening last week. It has been wonderful to see the school through the eyes of our visitors, many of whom are visiting for the first time. They've talked about how much they've enjoyed seeing lessons with so many people working hard, and a real feeling of care and community.

Most of all, they've talked about how well our students have represented us, and how impressed they are with their maturity and positivity. Over one quarter of our students joined us last week: a staggering amount. I am very grateful to them for their generous support, and I hope they have enjoyed contributing to our community as much as our guests enjoyed their hospitality.

We are now looking forward to welcoming prospective Year 12 students and their families to our [Sixth Form Open Evening](#) on Thursday 23 October, and I am already enjoying talking with our Year 11 students about their subject choices for the next two years.

Extra-curricular clubs and voluntary contributions

Thank you to the many of you who have made a voluntary contribution for children attending one or more clubs. Your generosity helps us make sure that these are well resourced for children, particularly as we look to expand our offer for extra-curricular clubs. Can I please ask you to encourage your child to let us know if there is a club they would love to have available, but which isn't currently on offer to them – we'll keep doing our best to make sure they get all of the opportunities they would like.

Meet the headteacher events

Last year, as I joined our community, I hosted some 'meet the headteacher' events. I wanted everybody to have a chance to meet me, to hear me talk about the school's priorities, and for me to answer questions. I have to say I really enjoyed the chance to speak with those of you who visited, and I found our conversations helpful. Therefore, even though I am no longer new to the school, I would like to extend the same invitation to you all.

As with last year, we'll schedule the number of events based on interest. Can I therefore please ask you, if you are interested, to let us know via this form:

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

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WEST Parent workshop

You may have seen the NHS's Well-being and Emotional Support in schools Team (WEST) at some of our information events. We work closely with WEST and their counsellors support our students when needed. They are running a free, online workshop for parents next month, and I'm happy to be able to share the poster advertising this with you all.

Lockdown drill

Those of you who were with us last year will remember that we introduced lockdown drills, in line with new legislation. I am sure many of our children will have had this drill in primary schools. We will continue to run lockdown drills on a regular basis, as we do fire drills, and the next one will be within the next few school weeks. Just as we practice fire drills so everybody knows what to do in the very unlikely event we need to evacuate our building, we practice lockdown drills so everybody knows what to do in the very unlikely event that we need to secure our building. However, as the latter are still relatively new, I appreciate that they are more likely to cause worry to our children. As before, we will do our best to reassure children that it is very unlikely that we would need to implement a real lockdown but, as with fire drills, we think it is important that we practise so that everybody is fully prepared and can stay safe.

Trip calendar

Some families have asked for information about our trip-offer, across seven years, to help them plan in advance. I've therefore attached a calendar, overleaf. This is not a list of every trip your child will be able to participate in: some trips we make available at short notice as things become available, and we will seek to keep expanding and improving our trip-offer and some of you with older children will see that we have already introduced new trips. I should also be clear that all of these trips are subject to change, depending on circumstances. Nonetheless, I hope this gives you a broad overview of what is likely to be available throughout your child's time with us, and helps you to plan.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher

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Current Trip Calendar			
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	All: geography fieldwork in Ledbury		All: Three Counties Show
	All: outdoor education residential		Musical theatre trip
Year 8		Ski trip (every other year, next trip Spring 25/26)	Normandy residential
			Musical theatre trip
Year 9		Ski trip (every other year, next trip Spring 25/26)	All: London museum visit
			German: Wewelsburgh residential
			Musical theatre trip
Year 10	Photography trip to Gloucester	Ski trip (every other year, next trip Spring 25/26)	All: University visit
	Drama: theatre trip	Geography fieldwork to Worcester	French: Paris residential
		History trip to Ludlow Castle	Geography fieldwork to Tewkesbury
Year 11	German: Cologne residential	Art trip to London	
Year 12	All: team building workshop	CERN residential (every other year, next trip Spring 25/26)	
	English/art Bath trip	Berlin residential (every other year, next trip Spring 26/27)	
	Psychology: West Mids. Safari Park		
Year 13	All: team building workshop	London theatre and gallery trip	
	Geography residential	CERN residential (every other year, next trip Spring 25/26)	
		Berlin residential (every other year, next trip Spring 26/27)	