



July 2026

ACU/cb

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: End of Academic Year Letter – Year 8

As we reach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very successful and rewarding year for Year 8. It has been a pleasure to watch the students grow in confidence, maturity and independence as they prepare to transition into Year 9 and begin their GCSE journey.

A particularly significant milestone this term has been the completion of the options process. I would like to commend the year group for the very thoughtful and self-reflective approach they demonstrated when selecting their GCSE subjects. They engaged maturely with the process, considering their strengths, interests and future aspirations carefully, and we are incredibly proud of the way they approached such an important decision.

Academically, students have also shown great resilience and dedication, particularly during their first experience of sitting formal examinations in the hall as a full year group. Their conduct was exceptional, and they approached the experience with maturity and focus. We are especially looking forward to seeing their Science results, as it was clear how hard they revised and prepared.

Beyond the classroom, Year 8 have achieved a great deal and represented the school brilliantly. There has been fantastic sporting success, including winning both the netball and football leagues, as well as strong participation and performances across a number of athletics competitions. We eagerly await the outcome of the rounders league.

The arts have also been a real highlight this year. We were incredibly proud to see, for the first time, a Year 8 student take on a lead role in our school production of Finding Nemo. The entire cast did a fantastic job! In addition, many students showcased their talents at the Arts Festival, demonstrating creativity, confidence and commitment.

As we move into the summer break, we ask for your support in ensuring that students complete any summer homework set by their teachers. This work is carefully designed to support their transition into Year 9 and help them feel confident and prepared as they begin their GCSE courses.

We also encourage all students to take this time to rest, reset and enjoy their well-earned break. It has been a busy and productive year, and it is important that they return in September refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead.

A reminder that our school remains mobile phone free in line with current government guidance. Our expectation continues to be that mobile phones are switched off and kept in bags throughout the school day. If a phone is seen, it will be confiscated; a second incident within a half term will result in the phone being held in school for five days. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this expectation.

We would also strongly encourage all parents and carers to download the Arbor Parent App if you have not already done so. This is an important tool that allows you to monitor your child's house points, behaviour (including detentions), club participation and more. Moving forward, we will also be using the app to book parents' evening appointments, so having access will be essential.

As we prepare for the next academic year, we would like to remind families of our school uniform policy, which remains an important part of maintaining high standards and a sense of belonging. We are pleased to introduce 'city shorts' as an additional uniform option, now available for purchase from SANCO. We encourage parents and guardians to ensure that all uniform items meet the school's expectations when students return in September.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. Year 8 have been a fantastic year group - enthusiastic, resilient and full of potential, and we are very much looking forward to supporting them as they begin Year 9.

Looking ahead, to the start of Year 9, please find below some key dates for the autumn term:

- **Monday 7th September** - Year 9's return to school at break time (10:50)
- **Friday 16th October** - Inset Day
- **Monday 26th October - Tuesday 3rd November** - October Half Term
- **Wednesday 4th October** - Students return to school after half term (8:35)
- **Thursday 12 November** - Year 9 Parents Evening (4:30-7)
- **Friday 27th November** - Occasional Day
- **Tuesday 15th December** - Reports sent home
- **Friday 18th December** - Last day of term - finish at 12:30
- **Tuesday 5th January** - Students return after Christmas break

We wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

A Curr

Miss Curr
Head of Year 8