



Dear Parents

I should like to wish everyone a warm welcome at the start of what is sure to be another busy year. It is almost exactly a year ago that I greeted Archbishop John Sentamu, who [formally opened our magnificent new school building](#). How time flies—a reminder to all of us to make the most of every single day.

This is an exciting time for the students, of course. After the long summer break, they return to face new challenges as they 'move up' a year—Year 7s are now Year 8s, last year's Year 8s become Year 9s...and so on. For our brand new cohort of eager Year 7s, this is one of the most significant moments in their young lives so far—the start of 'Big School'. We have worked hard over the last few months to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary. You can be sure that we will keep a particularly close eye on them in these first few weeks.

I was delighted last year when [the PE department won the Echo Schools Communication Award](#) for their innovative approach to reaching out to students and parents. As a school, we are always looking at how we can improve communications with students, families and the local community. In addition to 'traditional' methods—letters, texts and phone calls—we have the website, we publish [our regular half-termly magazine, Ridgeway New Times](#), and we are a growing presence on social media. You may notice lots of new school Twitter accounts run by departments and houses—why not click to follow them?

Next week we will be distributing log-ins for our new Parent App, which will help you keep in touch with school. We recommend that you download it onto your phone or tablet. The app allows you to view your child's achievements - as well as any behaviour points! - attendance and reports. It also enables you to update your personal information quickly and easily. It is, of course, crucial that you keep us informed of any changes that might affect school-home communication, whether related to contact details (mobile phone number, email address, home address etc.) or personal circumstances.

Many parents have said to me that they would also welcome the return of a weekly bulletin, which we can send directly to you via ParentPay and the app link. This is the first of these bulletins. It will keep you right up to date with what is happening in school. In the top right-hand corner, you will see our assembly theme for the coming week, one element of our ambitious character education programme, about which you will soon hear a great deal more. At the bottom of the page, we will highlight upcoming events.

You should by now have received ParentPay information. If you have any queries, you can [contact Lyn Usher via email](#) or by ringing the school office. We have also sent out log-ins for [ShowMyHomework](#), which allows you to monitor homework set, whether your child has completed it, and what mark the work received. Students can access resources and contact their teacher to ask any questions.

Next week is our Open Evening, involving many of our current students. I look forward to seeing some of you then.

Mr T Taylor
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 12 September: Open Evening 6pm to 8pm
- Wednesday 19 September: School photographs for Year 7 and Year 11
- Thursday 20 September: Open Morning 9.30am to 11.30am