



5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

A group of students and staff headed off to Wembley Stadium last weekend to watch the English v China Women's football game. It was a long day for all concerned however the reports back suggested they had a fabulous time. Thank you to the staff who gave up a day at their weekend to support this.

We have also recently had groups of students in the Mendips taking part in night navigation exercises in session after school with our Outdoor Education team. I know that their map reading skills will have been sharpened as a result.

Congratulations to the many students who have taken part in fixtures this term. There are too many to mention by name however we have seen considerable success here in a variety of sports.

Early Closure on Monday

We looked to inform people early on Monday this week of our decision to close slightly earlier at 2.45pm due to the heavy rain that had been experienced overnight and was forecast to continue throughout the day. This is not something we do lightly and would really only consider during the months of December and January as some of our students have bus journeys to their villages in and around the Valley and then walk home in what would be potential darkness. I know all parents and carers will spend time talking about the potential dangers of entering areas of water due to excessive rainfall and this is a message which we will back up in school as well.

Year 11

Mock examinations are coming to an end and it has been heartening but unsurprising to hear the invigilators' comments about how well the students have approached this. The mocks give the students a chance to see how their work is progressing whilst at the same time get used to the conditions which they will encounter in the summer. Well done to them all.

We have a '**mock results' afternoon** on **Wednesday 7th January at 3pm** where students receive their envelopes with their results and we have for the past few years invited parents and carers in for this. We appreciate for some it is in the middle of the working day but if you would like to attend you are most welcome. Please sign in at Main Reception for 2.50pm then we will make arrangements to show you over to the Hall. If you would like to attend, and to give us an idea of numbers, please complete the following short form [Year 11 Mock Results Afternoon Wednesday 7th January – Fill in form](#).

Parent and Carer Mobile Phone Consultation Events in the Library – Monday 8th December 4pm to 5pm and Thursday 11th December 7pm to 8pm

A reminder that next week we have two opportunities for parents and carers to come in and talk about how the school handles mobile phones around our site and in general. Please do sign up for these events using this link [Mobile Phone Consultation Meeting – Fill in form](#).

Parentkind Accreditation Award

Along with other secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, we have been working with the organisation Parentkind at reviewing our work with parents and carers. We have always felt that working with parents and carers together is the best way of supporting the young people in our care, be that through individual meetings, parents' evenings, information evenings and links with the community. I am pleased to say that we have been awarded their accreditation for being a Parent Friendly School however this is only the start of the journey with them. We are very aware that there are areas where we could do more and we are looking to develop this over time with yourselves.

Sixth Form RAG Week Next Week

A reminder that we have our annual Sixth Form RAG Week next week where our older students will be carrying out a host of events raising money for charity. I have asked the Sixth Form committee to write the following section so you get a flavour of what is going on:

'Next week, the Sixth Form are organising and participating in their annual RAG Week (Raising And Giving) - an absolute highlight of the school year! Throughout the week, the Year 12s and 13s will be dressing up in incredible costumes, with themes from Decades Day and Pyjamas Day to the Worst Dressed competition and the classic Group Costume. They will also be participating in various challenges throughout the week, such as the Catwalk, Zumba, Anything But A Bag and Staff vs Sixth Form Netball. The whole school will be able to join in on Friday for the Sponge Throwing, targeting loads of different teachers and even Mr Beynon himself! Not only is it a brilliant week, the whole event will be raising money for Cancer Research UK and The Red Cross - two incredible charities voted on by the Sixth Form students. Let the chaos commence!'

Non-School Uniform Day on Friday 12th December in Aid of Cancer Research

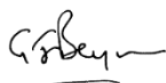
All students are invited to take part in a non-school uniform day on Friday 11th December organised by our charity Change and Create student team. Payment can either be made via ParentPay in advance or via paying £1 in school.

Christmas Holidays and Return to School in January 2026

A reminder that we finish at 12.05pm on Friday 19th December with bus timings adjusted accordingly. This day will be a normal uniform day other than students are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper rather than their green school jumper if they wish to.

We will return to school in the new year on Monday 5th January.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher