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21st May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move towards half term (Whitsun for the older generation), I thought it apt to update you on some matters regarding the school and next half term.

Firstly, we will be moving towards the new timetable, trialling it before September. This will allow current Year 9 to begin their Option subjects slightly earlier and get a better understanding of their choices. For Year 10, it will allow us to begin to finalise their pathways of entry for Year 11; it is a reality that they do not have a full year until their actual exams. The current Year 10 will sit their GCSEs in 145 school days, when we take out mocks and holidays.

The current Year 11 will be leaving us in less than 10 school days, with the majority having taken all their GCSEs. I wish them the best for the results in the summer when they receive them in August. I'm sure the Summer Ball preparations are well under way for those who are going. My complete empathy to all the parents/carers involved... how stressful, yet at the same time a lovely moment – let's not discuss the cost. It is strange that, since being at school from the age of 5, it all boils down to those exams – a culmination of your actions (reading at bedtime or counting pebbles – whatever you did), their years of primary school and then the input of my colleagues here; fingers crossed.

I have received queries around uniform, etc. as we move into the second half of the term. After half term, the jumper will be optional for the remainder of the year. To be clear, it does not mean they can wear an alternative instead, e.g. a hoodie or coat. If it's cool enough for either of those items, then the school jumper is the option. If we get into 'heatwave' territory, we will, like last year, make a move to school sports kit; however, we will inform you of that in advance. Thank you for your support in this area; I remember the unkind words and actions linked to what you wore at school. A clear uniform removes those issues and allows all to feel part of the Ludlow family.

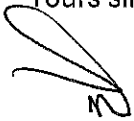
Finally, I'd like to address expectations around behaviour. It has been a full year since I took over the two secondary schools in the Trust and started to bring them together. I feel that we have settled in that time and are moving forward as a school family. We have recently had cause to remove two students from our school family due to their actions. I make no apologies for this. When you place your daughter/son in our care, you expect us to keep them safe and to follow the same moral values that you hold dear. I believe in basic good manners. I will always suspend for an altercation involving physical force, for comments that contain prejudice in any shape or form, and for verbal abuse of staff members. I wanted to share this with you so that you can be reassured of the values we hold dear at the school.

Cont'd...

I think school should be like an extension of your family, and I would not want people in my family who think it is okay to, in any shape or form, abuse members of my family. We are a Church of England school, which means our values are those of the society we are part of. I thank you for your support in these areas. Just to reassure you, the school is a lovely, peaceful environment full of incredible young people who are a pleasure to teach and spend time with. You know that; you raised them, so thank you for sharing them with us.

I understand we are going to enjoy lovely weather next week, so hopefully it'll be a good old-fashioned Bank Holiday weekend. Enjoy your time over the break, whatever your plans – I'm off for a BBQ. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 1st June.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Stoppard', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Stoppard
Executive Headteacher