

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Home News

Thank you to all families for attending our Diversity Festival today. The weather was on our side and contributed to an exceptionally enjoyable event. I would like to extend particular thanks to Kirsty, our Careers Lead, for organising the festival, and to all staff who supported the wide range of stalls and activities. Your participation and enthusiasm were very much appreciated.

Our September intake have begun their transition visits and are feeding back how much they are looking forward to starting school in September. Everyone has received information about the classes they will be in from September. We say goodbye to our current leavers on Friday 10 July; from Monday 13 July the new timetable will begin so pupils feel less anxious over the summer break about what their class will look like. Feedback from pupils has been very positive. Pupil and parent/carer voice is important to the future development of the school. Before the end of term Mr Power will be in touch to share a parent survey; we would encourage you to support the school by taking approximately ten minutes to complete it. All entries will be entered into a prize draw for a small thank-you gift.

As the school grows, so do class sizes. We are keen to maintain class sizes of between six and eight pupils. To support this we have appointed a new KS3 teacher, Miss Burns, and a KS4 teacher, Ms Capper; both have visited the school to prepare for September. We currently have two KS5 teaching vacancies for September and I hope to be able to provide an update within the next two weeks confirming the appointment of two experienced teachers to support our sixth form pupils. I am meeting the pupils on Tuesday of next week to provide reassurance and clarity about who their teachers will be in September.

Attendance remains a key priority. School is held accountable for the regular attendance of pupils. Attendance for this half term is currently 90.5%; our ambition is for attendance to be consistently 95%. There will be an increasing focus on pupil attendance, which will include recognising excellent attendance and providing support for those pupils and families whose attendance is a cause for concern. Positive outcomes for improving pupil attendance are achieved where there is constructive engagement between school and families and a clear understanding that pupils cannot learn and succeed with their peers if they are not in school. We are also conscious that medical appointments can contribute to absence; this will be taken into account when issuing 'Excellent Attendance' postcards.

The arrangements and responses to requests for holidays during term time remain unchanged. There is no provision for holidays in the regulations. If you need to take your child out of school during term time, you must submit a written request to the Headteacher and the School's Governing Body in advance. They will consider whether your circumstances are 'exceptional' and



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

inform you if the request is approved. Please note that holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances. If a child is taken out of school without approval for the purposes of a holiday, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If the unauthorised absence for the purposes of a holiday covers ten school register sessions (five school days) or more, the local authority may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to each parent or carer at the request of the Headteacher or School Governing Body. Penalty charges are £160 if paid within 28 days, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days, per parent/carer per child. The national framework limits penalty notices to two per parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period; a second notice within three years is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. Once two Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, if a third unauthorised leave of absence occurs within a three-year period, the Local Authority may move directly to prosecution.

Key dates for your diary:

- Summer Fair: Thursday 25 June, 1:00pm–2:30pm
- Sports Day: Tuesday 30 June
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Qualifying Expedition: Thursday 2–Friday 3 July
- Sixth Form Prom: Tuesday 7 July
- Year 11 and Year 13 pupils going to college in September: last day Friday 10 July
- School closes for the summer break: Wednesday 22 July
- School re-opens for the 2026–27 academic year: Wednesday 2 September

Next week the weather is expected to be hot. Please provide your child with water, a sun hat and suncream before coming into school. We have fresh water drink stations accessible throughout the day, sunshade sails on site and we have purchased ice pops which will be made available free of charge to pupils and staff.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Mike McCann
Headteacher, Greenbank



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