

Friday 4th July 2026

Subject: World Cup Survey — Outcome and arrangements for Monday 6th July 2026

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the strong response to our World Cup survey. Your feedback informed a robust discussion and our final decision.

84% of respondents asked for a later start on Monday 6th July 2026 so they can take the opportunity to watch England's round-of-16 match together as a relational, community experience. The best idea on this topic has been to avoid the score, get up early and watch it together as a family over an elongated breakfast.

Therefore, the school day will start at 9:50am. Students should go straight to period 2; form time and period 1 will not take place that day.

We recognise that 16% of respondents did not want a late start. These families will receive a further text this afternoon/evening to follow-up with an alternative option to help meet their needs.

We are mindful of the importance of protecting teaching time, so this has been a considered decision. The lesson lost represents approximately 0.1% of annual learning time. Research suggests that shared experiences like this contribute to character development and a stronger sense of belonging, which sit within our personal development priorities. It is a shame that we have not been able, due to kick-off times, to offer the chance to collectively watch a game together in school.

If England progress, we have reviewed future dates and can confirm no further fixtures will affect the school day.

Thank you for your feedback — it helped us find a solution that reflects the views of our community.

Best wishes,

D. Clayton

Important Update: Changes to Mobile Phone Guidance

Dear Parents and Carers,

New Government Guidance on Mobile Phones. I am writing to inform you about important changes to government guidance on mobile phones in schools. The Department for Education has recently strengthened its expectations around mobile phone use, and we want to keep you fully informed as we work through what this means for our school community.

Our Current Approach

We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support of our existing 'phones off and away, gate to gate' policy. This approach has served our boys well, helping to create a focused learning environment and supporting their wellbeing throughout the school day, whilst allowing the boys to have their phones on the way to and home from school - which is something parents requested.

What's Changing?

However, the new reinforced guidance from the DfE goes further than our current policy. Department for Education (DfE) guidance advises that pupils should not have access to mobile phones during the school day, including breaks and lunchtimes. The policy aims to make schools mobile phone-free environments by default, with support for confiscating devices to ensure compliance.

This strengthened wording represents a significant shift in expectations and means that simply having phones switched off and out of sight may not be sufficient going forward. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, which became law on 29 April 2026, stipulates that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones in schools will become statutory at a later date. This means that schools will be required to have a policy prohibiting pupils from using mobile phones or other smart technology at school during the school day.

What We're Doing Next

We are currently carefully designing what a phone-free approach will look like for our boys and families for the 2026-27 academic year. This is an important decision that requires thoughtful consideration of:

- the practical needs of our students
- the parental preference for students to have their phones on the way to and home from school
- what can we implement this effectively within our school context
- appropriate exceptions for pupils with specific medical conditions, who use their phone to support their treatment
- supporting the safeguarding and wellbeing of all our students.

As soon as our approach has been finalised and ratified by our governing body, we will share full details with you.

We are committed to giving you plenty of notice before any changes take effect, and we will provide clear information about how the new policy will work in practice.

Thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr R Hanson

Early Finish for Statutory Medical Needs CPD 8th July 1pm

School will finish earlier than normal for students on Wednesday 8th July to allow us to undertake important statutory medical needs CPD. The time of the **early closure is 1pm** for all students. Please make a note of this in your diary. There will be no provision for students to stay on site so please discuss arrangements for the afternoon with your son in advance.

Early Finish Reminders Enrichment Week

There will be an early school closure on both Tuesday 14th July, when we will be holding our Year 11 Celebration event, and on Friday 17th July, the last day of the summer term, when we will have our usual Charity Day event. Confirmation of closure times will be included in next week's comms. There will also be lots of information to share with parents regarding Enrichment Week in the comms next week so please keep an eye out for this.

Library News

This week in the Library

World Cup 2026 focus on lots of lovely football books...

World Cup Recommendations Shelf

Your **GOAL** should be to **TACKLE** at least one of these.

It's time to get **BOOKED!**

To celebrate Pride Month we have brand new copies of **Alice Oseman's** fabulous **Graphic Heartstopper** novels in the library.

Graphic Novels
Alice Oseman

GO ALL IN.

LOVE ALWAYS WINS

Advance Notice Start of Autumn Term

The Autumn term will commence on Tuesday 1st September however, our first two days will be INSET for staff only. Students will return as follows:

Thursday 3rd September: Year 7 students start 8.30

Thursday 3rd September: Year 11 students are required in school at 1.40 and leave 2.45

Friday 4th September: all year groups back starting at 8.30

School Disco

A huge thank you to our boys who attended the Year 8 and 9 school disco this week. It was a fantastic atmosphere — many pupils were singing along and dancing to DJ Phil's top hits.

Behaviour was excellent throughout. Many took advantage of the free photo booth and enjoyed treats from the external vendor. The boys were warm and welcoming hosts to the visiting girls' school, which was wonderful to see.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 8th July - Early closure staff CPD

Wednesday 8th, 9th & 10th July - Planned network outage

Summer School (Year 6 - 7 Transition):

Tuesday 25th August

Wednesday 26th August

Thursday 27th August

Friday 28th August

All days running from 9am-3pm