



July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

### End of Term/Start of Term

As I write, students in Year 7 to 10 are out and about engaged in experiences focused on their personal development and enjoyment. Year 10 are on work experience and the feedback already coming in from employers is very positive and reflects well on our students. Years 7, 8 and 9 are mainly out of school on trips like Marwell Zoo or Harry Potter World, whilst others are doing activities in school. It is an incredibly positive way to end a school year, culminating in lots of fun on the final day of term. Term ends at 12:20pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

A reminder that the final day of term is a Mufti Day in aid of Mosaic, the charity which supports families and young people who have experienced bereavement. Mosaic have worked with young people here at Highcliffe this year and I hope you will join me in expressing gratitude for their support by donating money on Mufti Day.

We have been asked to let you know that some young people from the local area have been jumping off Tuckton Bridge into the river, risking serious injury or worse. Please discourage your child from jumping from height into unknown bodies of water where the depth or objects in it cannot be seen.

Term starts again on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8:30am for Year 7 and 12, for Year 8 to 11 on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September and Year 13 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Further details of the daily arrangements for the start of term will be published nearer the time.

### Staffing update

Several staff leave us at the end of this term, either moving on to pastures new or settling into retirement and we wish them well. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment to the school over the years - in different ways each of these colleagues have had a profoundly positive impact on the school and we wish them well for the future.

Due to two staff on maternity leave, Miss Dunford will be Deputy Head of Achievement Year 8/9 and Mrs Tuck will be Head of Year 12 for the next academic year. Miss Richley will move to the role of ELSA from September and Mrs Douglas will move to the role of Learning Support Intervention Co-ordinator. Mrs Bowen takes over the subject leadership of Film and Media Studies at GCSE and A Level. Congratulations to all those staff moving into new roles at Highcliffe.

### **New staff**

We will be joined in September by Mr McLeavy and Mr Betts as History Teachers (Maternity Covers); Mrs Davoine and Mrs Reed, ADT Teachers; Mr Lindsay-Charlton, Assistant Headteacher (Culture & Belonging) and Miss Elms, Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form). Given the nationwide recruitment crisis impacting schools I am delighted we are fully staffed for September and have attracted such high-calibre people to the school.

I am thrilled to announce that we will be welcoming our first cohort of trainee teachers through the national provider *Inspiring Future Teachers*. These aspiring educators will complete their training here at Highcliffe, benefiting from hands-on experience and expert guidance under the leadership of our new Teacher Training Hub Lead, Janette Powell. This is an exciting step in helping to grow and retain more high-quality teachers for schools in our local community.

### **Attendance**

Throughout September we are running a 'September Attendance Streak' challenge. Every student in Year 7 to 11 who sustains 100% attendance in the calendar month of September will be entered into a prize draw in October with a variety of substantial prizes and a special 'Lucky Dip' winner. Further details will be shared with all the students who attend on their first day of term in September.

### **Finally**

A Level Results Day is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE Results Day a week later on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Year 13 and 11 rose to the challenge of exam season brilliantly and you will no doubt want to join me in wishing them well for their respective Results Days. Thank you in advance to all my colleagues in the Exams and Data team and among the teaching staff who work from A Level Results Day onwards: processing results; supporting students; liaising with colleagues and universities; and preparing for the new school year. Many of our support staff are at work for the whole summer 'holiday', especially in the Site and Facilities team, Operations team, and IT Services team. Without their diligence while the school is closed to students, we would not be ready to open again every September.

Once again, we have benefitted from strong parental support all year for what we are trying to achieve with our students. Thank you, parents, for everything you do in the background to help your child succeed at school. We literally could not do it without you. And of course, thank you to my wonderful, talented, tireless teaching and support staff. You are an exemplary team of people wholly committed to improving lives through education. I am both grateful to you and incredibly proud of you.

I wish everyone in the Highcliffe School community a fabulous summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



**Patrick Earnshaw**  
**Headteacher**