

St. Crispin's School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we move through the opening weeks of the new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the term. It has been a genuine pleasure to welcome our students back to school, and I have been incredibly impressed by the positive attitude, engagement, and commitment to learning that they have demonstrated from day one. Classrooms have been purposeful and productive, and students have returned ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead.

I would also like to thank the many parents and carers who attended our recent Partnership Evenings. It was wonderful to see such strong attendance and engagement from our school community. We firmly believe that education works best when schools and families work together, and these evenings provided an invaluable opportunity for us to listen to your views, share information and strengthen the partnership that supports our young people so effectively. Your voice is important to us, and we greatly appreciate the time you took to attend.

One of the highlights of the coming weeks will be the launch of our **Excellence through Enrichment** programme, which begins next week. We are proud to offer more than 50 clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities across a wide range of interests, from sport, music and the arts to STEM, leadership and academic pursuits. Participation in enrichment activities plays an important role in developing confidence, skills, friendships, and a sense of belonging, and I would encourage every student to consider joining at least one club this year. Explore what is on offer in our programme by looking at this term's schedule of activities [here](#). For more detail about each activity, you can scroll through our enrichment booklet [here](#).

Our newest members of the St Crispin's community, our Year 7 students, have made a tremendous start. Over the past few days, I have visited lessons, spoken to students at break and lunch, and spent time getting to know many of them. When asking how they were settling in, several Year 7 students independently remarked on how kind people are and how welcome they have been made to feel. Hearing this has been particularly pleasing because it reflects the culture we strive to create every day; a school where students feel valued, supported, and that they truly belong. I would like to thank our staff, student leaders, and older students who have played such an important role in helping our new students settle so successfully.

Year 7 also took part in the Positive Choices programme this week. Whilst there were certainly a few shocked faces when they walked into a room greeted by six police officers, any initial nerves quickly

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disappeared. Students engaged brilliantly throughout the sessions, asking thoughtful questions, sharing their views, and showing a genuine interest in the important topics being discussed. It has been fantastic to see how much they have taken away from the experience, and we are incredibly grateful to Thames Valley Police and Wokingham Local Authority for helping our young people develop the knowledge, confidence and resilience needed to make safe and positive choices both now and in the future.

Finally, I would like to remind you all that school will close at **12.25pm on Monday 21st September** to enable us to prepare for our annual Open Evening. We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to St Crispin's and showcasing the many opportunities available within our school. Please ensure that arrangements are made for your child to travel home at the earlier finish time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The start of this academic year has reinforced what a special community St Crispin's is. I look forward to working together to ensure every student enjoys a successful and fulfilling year.



Mr Peter Griffiths
Headteacher