

13 February 2026



Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, I wanted to share some updates and information with you.

Our Year 11 students have completed their mock exam season, and are now really understanding the stresses and strains of dealing with multiple exams, revising hard, and the importance of feeling prepared. We look forward to a really impactful mock results event with them after the break where they'll get a sense of how the summer results day will feel - while they still have the time to make the changes they may need to ensure success.

We know how much students value the staff in the year teams who support them every day, and there are some changes coming in that team to make you aware of. Year 11 Engagement Leader Mr Brammah leaves us after half term, and his superstar replacement is Mrs Crossley who many parents know well after 24 years at Chaucer, most recently in the Safeguarding team. She's looking forward to working with Miss Page in supporting the Year 11s through the next crucial months.

You may be aware that Miss Scholey, our Year 8 Engagement Leader has been off for some time after an accident at Christmas. Many parents have been nice enough to ask after her health - she's very much improving and hopes to be back with us soon. In the meantime, and until Miss Scholey is back up to full fitness, Mr Max-Grant is stepping in as additional Year 8 Engagement leader. Mr Max-Grant is also from the safeguarding team and knows many students and families well.

In terms of attendance, we have been really pleased with the further improvements over the year so far. Last year we were noted as the 3rd best improving secondary school in the country for the autumn and spring terms, going up over 6% compared to the previous year. So far this year we're up another 2.7% on those gains. Thank you for working with us on connecting strong attendance with success in school. We know that students final GCSE grades are so closely linked to attendance - and that every day in school Year 7 to Year 11 is an investment in that final success for them. It's a massive part of why Chaucer School is improving year on year - because children are in school. Particular congratulations should go to Year 7 who are our strongest attenders, with Year 9 closely behind. The challenge moving forward will be to get all GCSE year groups to match, when we know how hard grades are hit by absence from school.

And finally....

Next half term will be short but busy, with a few new dates for your diary.

- Year 7 Parents Evening will be on the 11th of March, where we look forward to sharing successes and next steps with families.
- We have an **INSET day on Friday the 20th of March**, so school will be closed to all students as we engage in planning and training activities.
- Our last day of term before the Easter break will be Friday the 27th of March 2026.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Crewe
Headteacher

