



27 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the spring term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the enthusiasm and commitment of our students, staff and Governors and thank them all for their work across the term. Our Awards Assemblies this week have been a celebration of hard work, character and our school values, with over 300 certificates awarded for academic achievement, character and Head of Year special commendations.

Throughout this term, we have seen our values of integrity, independence and inclusivity in action across various extracurricular activities and community engagements. Highlights have included Sixth Form students delivering “smartphone-free superpower” sessions to local primary school pupils, our YouthSpeaks team reaching the County Finals in debating, and our large cohort of Year 9 students enthusiastically preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and voluntary work.

In the last two weeks alone our sporting achievements have been nothing short of phenomenal with the U16 Girls’ Netball Team crowned National Champions, the U18 Girls’ Football Team becoming County Champions and the Year 9 Boys’ Football Team reaching the final of the National Cup (we look forward to the final in May). A special mention also goes to the students across various year groups who competed in the National Cross Country finals, our swim team for their brilliant performances in recent galas and we even celebrated success in an international skiing competition this month!

I would like to thank our dedicated staff who consistently go above and beyond to create, promote, and facilitate these valuable experiences for our students, including an incredible range of trips over the term.

My thanks also go to the ASA for their continued, energetic support and creative fundraising efforts - especially the sell-out Quiz Night and Burns Night this term. The funds that the ASA raise are significant and do so much to enhance facilities for our students. We are very lucky to have such a committed group.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the Easter holiday signals the final break before external exams start. Theodore Roosevelt once said, ‘Comparison is the thief of joy.’ His message about not comparing ourselves to everyone else can be tricky in a world intensified by social media, but I’d encourage those preparing for external exams to heed his advice so they can start the final countdown to exams as confidently as possible. To this end, I’d like to take this opportunity to remind all of our examination students to use the Easter break effectively - to strike the right balance between work and relaxation so they are well prepared for their upcoming exams. Of course, as part of this preparation I look forward to seeing students attending the Easter revision sessions next week and remain incredibly grateful to our staff for making this extensive programme possible.

As the clocks go forward this weekend, I hope that some good weather and lighter evenings provide a restful Easter break for you and your families and I look forward to seeing students return at the normal time of 08:30 on Monday 13 April.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

**James Shapland**  
**Headteacher**